ABANDONED BABY IS DOING JUST FINE, PG 7

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metronews

Celebrity pg 35

All the world's a stage for Miley

Israelis say flu should be renamed

RELIGION An Israeli health official says the outbreak of swine flu should be renamed "Mexican" influenza in deference to Muslim and Jewish sensitivities over pork.

Deputy Health Minister Yakov Litzman said yesterday the reference to pigs is offensive to both religions and "we should call this Mexican flu and not swine flu."

Both Judaism and Islam consider pigs unclean and forbid the eating of pork products.

Scientists are unsure where the new swine flu virus originally emerged. They say there is nothing about the virus that makes it "Mexican" and worry such a label would be stigmatizing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local pg 3

GM Canada announces major cuts

Health pg 19

Questions for spa visits

Entertainment pg 26

Music choices on a budget

ShareYourViews
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Protest **Making their voices heard**

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kamala Moothy, holding Canadian, U.S. and Tamil Tiger flags, chants at a Tamil protest yesterday outside the U.S. Consulate on University Avenue. Streets were closed in the area for much of the day to accommodate the protest. More coverage, pages 3, 10.

No need to panic

Province says SARS lessons will help deal with swine flu

Ontario residents should have confidence in the province's ability to respond to a possible swine flu pandemic because of what it learned from the deadly SARS outbreak in 2003, health officials and the Liberal government said yesterday.

However, opposition parties said Ontario had not acted on the lessons learned from SARS, which claimed 44 lives.

There were a total of six cases of swine flu in British Columbia and Nova Scotia yesterday, but no confirmed cases in Ontario, said Dr. David Williams, the province's acting chief medical officer of health.

Between 10 and 12 suspected cases are under investigation in Ontario, he said.

"My advice is that there is no need to panic," said Williams, who insisted "there is a major difference" between how the province reacted to SARS and how it is dealing with the swine flu problem.

Health Minister David Caplan said the province was better prepared for patients with swine flu because of its experience in 2003.

"Our ability to be able to respond, to identify, to contain and to be able to control these kinds of situations is increased because of our understanding of what happened during SARS," he said.

A commission into the SARS outbreak suggested the first wave of infections starting in March 2003 — known as SARS 1 — was unavoidable, but likely could have been controlled more quickly if public health systems for disease surveillance had been in better shape.

The report said it was impossible to know whether a second wave of SARS infections in May and June could have been prevented, but found the devastating second phase could have been caught sooner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 4, 6, 9.

Patient info

- An integrated public health information system created after SARS means health officials are no longer "using sticky notes on the wall" to relay patient information, said Dr. David Williams, the province's acting chief medical officer of health.

What you need to know about the swine flu epidemic

Some information about swine flu:

Symptoms: Fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing; some report runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Transmission: Believed to occur through coughing or sneezing, or touching contaminated surfaces before touching mouth or nose.

Advice: Health officials urge those with flu-like symptoms to avoid work or school, wash hands, cough into sleeves and get medical attention.

Quote: "On top of a synchronized global financial and economic crisis, an outbreak of swine fever is the last thing we need just now." — Neil Mackinnon, chief economist at ECU Group.

News: All school in Mexico suspended until May 6. In Mexico City, surgical masks given to the public, venues closed and public events cancelled. Mexican president assumed new powers to isolate infected people. World Bank loaning Mexico more than $200 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- For an interactive map of swine flu cases worldwide, visit metronews.ca.
- For the latest updates on the swine flu epidemic, visit metronews.ca.

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Fake bill bust
Two men are facing a total of 12 charges after Toronto police dismantled a suspected counterfeit money operation in Scarborough last week. Angelo Syean Reid, 20, and Jameila Thane, 21, both of Toronto, are facing numerous charges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Drunk driver gets five years for death

A man from Richmond Hill has been sentenced to five years in prison for driving into and killing a 37-year-old mother of four who was out for a jog. Thirty-five-year-old Matthew Junkert was sentenced yesterday in a Newmarket courtroom after being found guilty in January of impaired driving causing death and dangerous driving causing death. He's also banned from driving for 10 years once he has served his sentence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GM Canada cuts jobs, dealerships

Workforce to be slashed 57 per cent, 310 dealers to close by 2014 in new plan

General Motors Canada will slash its workforce by more than half by 2014 and close as many as 310 dealerships by the end of next year as part of a broad restructuring plan announced by the company yesterday.

The troubled company's Canadian arm will reduce its hourly workforce by 57 per cent, from 10,300 currently to 4,400 over the next five years. The company employed 20,000 Canadians as recently as 2005.

Many of the 5,900 jobs being eliminated under yesterday's latest streamlining plans were previously announced and include the closure of a truck plant in Oshawa and a transmission plant in Windsor.

GM Canada spokesman Stew Low estimated yesterday's announcement will affect about 1,500 jobs on top of those already announced.

The announcement didn't surprise Canadian Auto Workers president Ken Lewenza.

"The reality is there's been significant plant closure announcements in Canada that are going to take place within the next couple years, and we're not totally surprised by the numbers although they're a little bit more than we'd anticipated," he said.

Lewenza said he expects most of the new job cuts will take place through attrition.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Canadian Automobile Dealers Association estimated the dealership closures could affect as many as 12,000 Canadians.

The company said it also plans further cuts to its white-collar workforce.

The company released its new restructuring plan after governments in Canada and the U.S. said its previous plan was insufficient for the company to receive long-term government aid.

GM Canada said the new plan will move "faster and deeper" than previous and will "speed the reinvention of the company's operations into a more customer-focused, leaner, and more cost-competitive automaker."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE PG 12

More Magna layoffs

- Magna International Inc. says it will temporarily lay off 725 workers at its Formet Industries plant in St. Thomas. The cuts include both hourly and white collar employees.

Canada's largest auto parts maker says the layoffs are the result of customers temporarily shutting down their full-sized truck plants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Entertainment

Hugh Jackman talks about his new action sci-fi flick X-Men Origins: Wolverine.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video The new military chaplin at Kandahar base has had an emotional start to her tour of duty at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Swine flu fears lead to increased screening of incoming Mexican workers and officials urge Canadians to take measures to avoid the virus at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 8 4 4; **Ontario Pick 4** : 9 2 6 3
Encore: 6580248
Daily Keno: 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27 35, 40, 41, 42, 51, 53, 55, 61, 62, 69
These results are not official.

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Finals Studying sunshine

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trinity College students, from left, Shannon Garden-Smith, 19, Alexandra Veall, 20, and Mike Kryluk, 19, soak up some sunshine while studying for finals on the lawn of the Munk Centre for International Studies yesterday.

Continuing protest clogs major artery

Police expect a busy part of Toronto's downtown to remain closed well into this morning as hundreds of Tamil protesters continued to demonstrate on University Avenue last night.

While many protesters left the section of University between Queen and Dundas Streets earlier today, the crowd was replenished by new flag-waving and placard-carrying demonstrators.

"I don't understand why Canada doesn't see the importance of this cause."
Genit Jeyakanthan

Many, like Genit Jeyakanthan, had stayed overnight.

"Canada has taken a leadership role in other situations like this, they have to take action," said Jeyakanthan. The 23-year-old York University student said many people in the crowd brought their children to the protest and were missing work so they could attend.

"I don't understand why Canada doesn't see the importance of this cause."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CHARGES Several pharmacies, drug makers and wholesalers in Ontario are facing criminal charges and $34 million in fines in an alleged scheme that saw them profit from reselling generic prescription drugs health officials said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Developer charged over project

Developer Darryl Jessop has been charged with filing false information to Toronto's lobbyist registry. Jessop was accused of providing inaccurate information about a neighbourhood real estate project, after registrar Linda Gehrke swore out an information before a justice of the peace last month. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Porter fuels airport expansion

Residents continued their vehement protest and government officials offered gushing praise as upstart Porter Airlines announced yesterday it has already begun a privately funded, $45-million expansion of Toronto's controversial downtown airport.

The expansion of the island airport, located just off Toronto's shoreline, will allow the airline to double its traffic in and out of the city and will lead to 300 infrastructure jobs, while still respecting the local environment and community, said president Robert Deluce.

He grinned through speeches by federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, Transport Minister John Baird and a representative of the Ontario government, who all congratulated the company for its much-welcomed investment and offered compliment after compliment about the relatively new airline's level of service and successes.

Not everyone was singing Porter's praises, however.

Residents of Toronto's islands — which house a small community of cottage-like residences a short ferry ride from the downtown core — and other locals have complained the airport is a blight on the city's waterfront and should not be made larger.

Dozens of protesters slowed traffic into the airport before the announcement and complained about the prospect of even more planes soaring over their homes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty joins Don Carty, Robert Deluce, head of Porter Aviation, Transport Minister John Baird and Jean-Marc Lalonde, deputy minister of economic development for Ontario, for a photo op at Toronto City Centre Airport.

Family feel swine flu keeping critically ill woman in Mexico

TRAVEL The family of a Toronto woman on life-support in a Mexican hospital said yesterday they believe she's being blocked from returning to Canada because of false fears over swine flu.

Victoria George, 29, has been in a Cancun hospital since Wednesday after suffering a severe asthma attack that sent her into cardiac arrest. She was on vacation with her husband and their five-year-old son.

Her prognosis is grim and loved-ones want her flown back to Ontario to say their goodbyes, efforts relatives claim have been repeatedly denied because of the swine flu outbreak that's suspected of killing more than 140 people in Mexico.

Ontario's Health Ministry dismissed those suggestions yesterday, saying no one travelling from countries affected with swine flu are being barred from Ontario hospitals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No comment

- Steve Irwin, a health ministry spokesman, declined to comment specifically on George's case.

Bombardier chosen as new light rail vehicles supplier

TRANSIT A standing ovation erupted from the public gallery when elected transit commissioners unanimously approved the choice of Canadian firm Bombardier as the supplier of Toronto's new light rail vehicles (LRVs).

"It's the first time I've smiled in about four weeks." Ken Lewenza, CAW

"It's the first time I've smiled in about four weeks," CAW president Ken Lewenza quipped yesterday. He had found time between auto-sector negotiations to urge the TTC to build on its 25 per cent minimum Canadian-content requirement for the 204 new low-floor cars to be built in Thunder Bay. They're expected to cost about $1.22 billion.

Nobody seemed concerned there is still no word on provincial or federal money needed to officially award the contract to Bombardier. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CITY HALL If you're a City of Toronto taxpayer, you're now in the real estate development game — and the city has released a list of 30 properties that are now in play. From the derelict bus stalls to the C.O. Bick Police College at Finch Ave. E. and Brimley Rd., the city's new development company, Build Toronto, will soon have a substantial portfolio.

Yesterday, the city released a list of 22 new properties that will be assigned to Build Toronto for development, if council approves. The city will explore ways to make money from the sites, ranging from selling them off to developing them for commercial use. A special panel estimated the city could make $150M a year by developing its real estate. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On April 30th, three of Toronto's top radio stations will be handing their mics over to a bunch of kids.

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Second teen arrested in connection with Keele Street shooting
A second 17 year old has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Toronto teen Daniel Lewis. Lewis, 19, died in hospital after he was shot twice in a laneway near Keele Street and Rogers Road last Tuesday evening. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Poop, scoop, drop in bins part of new city pet waste plan

Some of the city's most popular dog-walking parks will boast green bins starting next month, part of the city's efforts to keep dog waste and other litter out of landfills.

But to use them, dog owners will have to stoop-and-scoop using city-provided paper bags, a prospect some say could deter even the most environmentally conscious.

"The majority of dog owners, including myself, use small plastic bags to dispose of the dog waste," and many buy biodegradable bags, says John Cleary, co-chair of the High Park K-9 Committee, an advisory group.

"Convincing dog owners to use paper products … will likely not be easy," added Cleary, who has a 4-year-old yellow Lab cross named Caeli. The paper bags provided seem better suited to the waste of small dogs, he noted.

High Park is one of about 20 to be equipped with bins and paper-bag dispensers in a citywide pilot project expected to last five months. The parks were chosen for their "high volume" of dogs and proximity to existing waste collection routes, said parks manager Carol Cormier.

The city aims to divert 70 per cent of park trash by 2010, up from the current 50 per cent, Cormier said. Dog waste makes up about 25 per cent of park trash, up to 1,400 tonnes annually, according to a trash audit performed by the department in 2006.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Police charge driver after finding cocaine in car

Provincial police have seized more than 100 kilograms of cocaine from a car on Highway 401 east of Brockville, Ont. Forty-three-year-old Franco D'Onofrio of Magog, Que., has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Mulroney aide in the spotlight

Evidence at the Schreiber inquiry shows that Fred Doucet, a former senior aide to Brian Mulroney, went to work as a lobbyist for the Bear Head armoured vehicle project practically as soon as he left the Prime Minister's Office. Documents show Doucet was discussing the project within three days of departing the PMO in August 1988. He would normally have been subject to a one-year cooling off period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swine flu deaths likely: Official

World Health Organization raises pandemic alert as illness keeps spreading

The country's top medical official warned yesterday that the numbers of Canadians sick with swine flu will swell and some will likely die from the illness.

"Simply because we're seeing mild symptoms so far does not mean we can take this for granted," said David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public health officer.

"We will likely see more cases. We will likely see more severe illnesses. And we will, likely — unfortunately — see some deaths as well."

The grim prognosis came as Canada mulled issuing an advisory warning against non-essential travel to Mexico because of the swine flu outbreak there.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has already issued health alert notices urging travellers to take precautionary measures such as getting a flu shot and washing their hands.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students wearing face masks gather on the campus of King's-Edgehill School in Windsor, N.S., yesterday. Health officials have reported that four students from the school have had a mild case of swine flu after an exchange trip between schools in Nova Scotia and the Yucatan Peninsula.

Canada also battened its hatches by declaring all temporary foreign workers from Mexico must now undergo a pre-departure examination performed by two doctors.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has dispatched two officials to Mexico City to help their counterparts with screening and laboratory work.

The World Health Organization raised its pandemic alert by one level on its six-point scale to a phase-four alert, which means there is sustained human-to-human transmission in at least one country. It is two steps short of declaring a full pandemic.

"Simply because we're seeing mild symptoms so far does not mean we can take this for granted."
David Butler-Jones, public health officer

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local experts red-flagged Mexico City in report

DISEASE Toronto doctors red-flagged Mexico City as a potential incubator of global disease as they put the finishing touches on a report last month that has not yet been released.

The research team led by Dr. Kamran Khan of St. Michael's Hospital cites the teeming metropolis as a biological triple threat: More than 22 million people packed into tight urban areas, lax sanitation and health gaps that delay disease detection.

Throw in the mighty North American air-travel engine and you have a global launch pad for pathogens.

"Living in an interconnected world is something that benefits us all but there is a certain price to pay as well," Khan said yesterday in an interview.

"Essentially, it's vulnerability to global infectious disease threats."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Answers to swine flu queries

HEALTH Some answers to questions that many people are asking about the new swine flu:

Q What can I do to avoid getting the flu?

A Focus on simple prevention techniques, such as washing your hands and coughing in your sleeve. "If you don't have access to soap and water, use an alcohol gel," advised Dr. Richard Besser, acting director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Q What should I do if I've travelled to an area with swine flu and now have coughs, aches and fatigue?

A "If people have a travel history to an affected area and they're sick, stay at home," said Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief public health officer. "Stay at home; phone your doctor."

Q Should I just show up at a clinic or doctor's office?

A "Notify them in advance as a courtesy to the physician ... so they can take proper precautions to protect themselves and their patients," said Dr. Danuta Skowronski, a physician epidemiologist with the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

Q Is there anything that helps patients with swine flu get better?

A The virus is vulnerable to Tamiflu and Relenza, the two anti-viral drugs that Canada has stockpiled.

Q Is it safe to eat fruits and vegetables from Mexico?

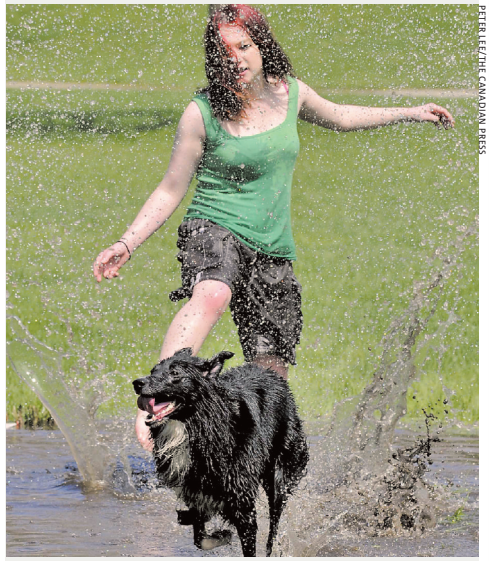
A Yes. "The virus is not found in food and it's not transmitted by ingestion of food," said Dr. Andrew Simor, infectious disease specialist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Q Can you get this swine flu from handling or eating pork products?

A No. "It is perfectly safe to eat pork because that's not a means of getting swine flu," Simor said. "Pigs and swine often are infected with influenza virus and yet people ingest pork products all the time. They don't get sick from it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cambridge **Day at the park**



PETER LEE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Amy Beckett, 18, plays with her two-year-old border collie Shadow yesterday on the flooded grass of Soper Park next to the Mill Creek in Cambridge.

Donor offers reward for girl's safe return

WOODSTOCK The mother of Victoria Stafford says an anonymous donor has offered to put up however much money is needed to bring the missing eight-year-old girl home.

Tara McDonald says police are looking into the offer, and she stresses that her daughter's abductor has not contacted her family or investigators asking for a ransom.

Victoria Stafford

The girl, known as Tori to family and friends, hasn't been seen since she left her school in Woodstock on April 8.

Police have released a composite sketch based on a video of a woman seen walking with Tori the day she went missing, but have disclosed no other major leads in the case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman charged with sexually assaulting dog, child

CRIME A woman in Lakeshore, Ont., has been charged with sexually assaulting her young child and dog and broadcasting the acts over the Internet via a webcam.

Ontario Provincial Police received a complaint Saturday from someone who said he had viewed the incidents on his computer the night before.

Officers were able to identify the woman and locate her residence, where they executed a search warrant and seized several computers.

She is charged with bestiality, sexual assault, sexual interference and sexual exploitation, and police say she could face additional charges related to child pornography.

The woman's name is not being released to protect the identity of the child, who is now in the custody of the Children's Aid Society.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INQUIRY A pathologist who conducted the autopsy on Robert Dziekanski says he examined the man's body believing he'd only been hit with an RCMP Taser one time. A public inquiry has already heard that a Taser was deployed five times by one of four RCMP officers dealing with an agitated man throwing furniture, but it's unclear how many times Dziekanski was actually shocked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecare workers strike targets northern Ontario
Red Cross homecare workers who have been staging one-day strikes in several Ontario cities plan to target several northern communities today. The 3,000 homecare workers in Ontario are seeking higher wages and compensation for the time they spend driving from home to home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Abandoned child healthy

One-year-old rescued after spending night in woods

The Quebec provincial police officer emerged from the brush with purpose, like a fullback charging for the goal-line.

Tucked under Const. Patrick Sullivan's arm was a one-year-old boy who had just survived a cold night alone in the woods.

The baby, allegedly abandoned by his father after midnight Sunday, had spent nearly 12 hours outside in rainy, five-degree weather wearing nothing but a T-shirt and a soggy diaper.

> **"In this child, I saw my own little guy abandoned, and I said, 'There's no way we're leaving this child freezing here all alone in the forest'. "**
> Const. Patrick Sullivan

A police helicopter spotted the child at around noon Sunday.

Sullivan, who was already involved in the search, then scampered into the thick woodlot and found the boy.

The boy, who still doesn't walk, was holding out his arms as though he wanted to be picked up when Sullivan located him in the underbrush. The officer wrapped him in a thermal blanket.

"I took him in my arms and I didn't let go until I got to the ambulance," said Sullivan, 33, himself the father of a two-month-old boy.

Sullivan said he ran as fast as he could for about 100 metres through the forest with the baby cradled in his arms.

"In this child, I saw my own little guy abandoned, and I said, 'There's no way we're leaving this child freezing here all alone in the forest,' " he said.

"It was full throttle."

The seven-year police veteran said he was relieved to see that the baby was, except for mild frostbite on his cheeks, quite healthy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOCELYN RIENDEAU/THE CANADIAN PRESS/SHERBROOKE LA TRIBUNE

Const. Patrick Sullivan runs with a baby out of the woods at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Rochelle, Que., near Sherbrooke on Sunday. The baby was reported missing by the mother and is reported to be in good condition after spending 12 hours in the woods.

Ontario real GDP down in '08: Report

STATSCAN Only half of the provinces showed positive growth in real GDP last year, Statistics Canada reported yesterday.

Saskatchewan led the list, with growth of 4.4 per cent, while Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Manitoba also showed positive numbers.

The GDP fell in Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, while New Brunswick was unchanged.

Yukon and Nunavut both saw higher GDP, while the Northwest Territories shrank.

The agency said national economic growth was sluggish during the first half of last year, then contracted during the last five months amid global financial turmoil.

It said goods production fell 2.8 per cent in 2008, the first decline since 2001, while services production increased 2.1 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Decline

- GDP in Ontario fell 0.4 per cent 2008 after a 2.3 per cent rise in 2007. Automotive production declined more than 20 per cent while forestry dropped sharply.

News in brief

ELECTION The B.C. Liberal election campaign, which has been on cruise control for much of the first two weeks, has hit a speed bump with the resignation from cabinet of the minister in charge of the province's traffic laws — over his speeding tickets. John van Dongen revealed his driver's licence had been suspended for four months for acquiring too many speeding tickets.

EXPROPRIATION The Manitoba government is deciding whether to force people to move out of flood-prone areas by expropriating their land after another spring of serious flooding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Amsterdam $249
Travel May 24 - Jun 6/ts + taxes & fees $384

Costa Rica $300
Travel May 9 - May 16/ac + taxes & fees $183

Vancouver $333
Travel May 16 - May 23/ws + taxes & fees $112

Buenos Aires $499
Travel Jun 9 - Jun 24/ac + taxes & fees $218

Hong Kong $679
Travel May 12 - May 26/uanh + taxes & fees $259

Sydney $1298
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Niagara Falls Weekend $179
Sheraton on the Falls taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 3 nights 4-star accom just one-minute from breathtaking Niagara Falls. Travel May 8 - 11/ggv. ADD Great Gorge Adventure pass to enjoy the four most popular sights at Niagara Falls from $115.

Rocky Mountains Fly & Drive $469
+ taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare into Calgary and a 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage to explore the Rocky Mountains. Travel May 16 - 23/ggv/ws.

Victoria Whale Watching $645
The Fairmont Empress + taxes & fees $144
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 4 nights 4.5-star accom in Victoria's Inner Harbour plus whale watching day tour. Departs May 20/wsv/ws.

Buenos Aires 5 Nights $799
Park Chateau Kempinski + taxes & fees $249
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 5 nights 3-star central boutique accom in the elegant Recoleta area. Departs Jun 4/ggv/ac. ADD Tango show, dinner and dance lessons from $110.

Europe Holidays

LONDON $579
Royal National + taxes & fees $382
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 5 nights 3-star central accom. Departs May 30/ggv/ts. ADD Tower of London and Thames River sightseeing cruise from $48.

Scotland Bed & Breakfast Tour $1139
+ taxes & fees $437
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to Edinburgh, 4 nights various B&B accom with breakfast, transport with professional driver and guide, ferry & bridge crossings and travel discount card on this 5-day tour of Scottland. VISIT Edinburgh, Ullapool, Stornoway and Portree. Departs Tuesdays in Jun/ggv/co.

Sun Holidays

Varadero 4-Star $397
Oasis Brisas del Caribe + taxes & fees $199
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jun 4/nol/ts.

Punta Cana 4.5-Star $547
Grand Oasis Bavaro + taxes & fees $315
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4.5-star all-inclusive accom in a deluxe room. Departs Jun 4/nol/ts.

Mayan Riviera 4.5-Star $570
Occidental Grand Xcaret + taxes & fees $287
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4.5-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jun 6/acv/ac.

Cruise Holidays

ALASKA OCEANVIEW $839
Norwegian Sun + taxes & fees $219
INCLUDES 7-day Norwegian cruise in an oceanview stateroom, onboard meals and entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Vancouver cruising the Inside Passage, Sawyer Glacier and visiting Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. Sails May 31, 2009. Port charges included.

Eastern Mediterranean $889
Splendour of the Seas + taxes & fees $90
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Comment & Views

Comment

A romantic in our midst

NationalReport
Lawrence Martin

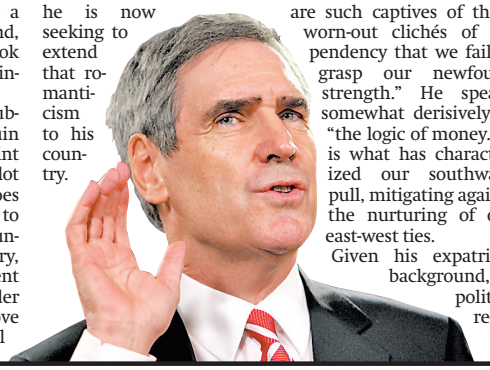
metronews.ca/nationalreport

Michael Ignatieff's new book serves a stabbingly clear purpose. When you've been out of the country so long that you're accused of being a stranger in your own land, how about titling your book True Patriot Love as a shin-kicking riposte?

The little volume, published by the Penguin Group, has a big first print run of 22,000. There's a lot riding on it. Not only does the Liberal leader want to dispel any suggestion of unfamiliarity with the country, he is seeking to present himself as a nation builder — someone who will move beyond functional, retail politics to something more inspiring.

Without supplying the necessary details, he talks of building new east-west links, energy corridors, power grids, European-styled high-speed railways. Canada, he says, has to let its imagination blossom.

Coming from famous lineage on both sides of his family, which he has often written about, Ignatieff has a romanticized view of his own life. What is apparent in True Patriot Love is that he is now seeking to extend that romanticism to his country.



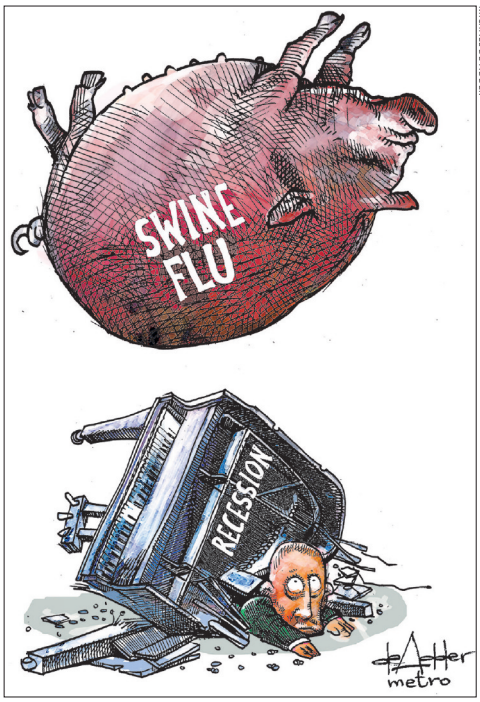
A romantic in our midst? Maybe it's time. Visionary, patriot talk has been absent from the Canadian vocabulary for two decades. Big-project leaders haven't been around since Brian Mulroney and Pierre Trudeau. Jean Chrétien drove a Chevy, so to speak, Stephen Harper a Camaro. Mounting his white steed, Count Ignatieff says we're not quite that boring.

Lamenting our preoccupation with the United States, he writes that "we are such captives of these worn-out clichés of dependency that we fail to grasp our newfound strength." He speaks somewhat derisively of "the logic of money." It is what has characterized our southward pull, mitigating against the nurturing of our east-west ties.

Given his expatriate background, politics requires that Ignatieff play the patriot card. But there is much to suggest that he truly believes in big-dream leadership. So much of his writing over the last three decades has been about ties that bind people. In True Patriot Love it's like he is seeking to feel Canada. Sensitivity is the hallmark of his prose style, which is sometimes evocative, sometimes overbearing. But what is clear is that he has, in fact, done a lot of thinking about this country.

Critics are already lampooning his mega-project talk as economically unrealistic. Michael the Romantic's response is that economics can't be the sole arbiter. What, he asks, would great leaders like Macdonald or Laurier tell us? They would say "the country wouldn't exist at all if the logic of money had determined our destiny."

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

The recession and challenges of churches

Ed Cowan

Reports are telling us that during this terrible recession many who have lost their jobs, their homes, their retirement savings, and even their families, are turning to their churches for faith, hope and, in some cases, charity, the three great virtues called for in the New Testament.

Faith, they continue to get plenty of, and, in some cases, some charity. But it is in the area of providing hope that they have proved to be "hopelessly" inept, incompetent, inexpert and, for all intents, mostly useless. For the first time in many decades, our churches have failed miserably when we have needed them most. Maybe it's because the current generation of church leaders have no idea of how to communicate the conviction of hope.

U.S. President Barack Obama knew. His Hope T-shirts and stickers sold and continue to be sold in the hundreds of thousands.

Anne Frank knew. In her legendary book, The Diary Of A Young Girl, she proclaimed, "Where there's hope there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong."

The unfortunate inaction by churches everywhere reminds me of two 1970s moments. One was when Richard Adams introduced in his first novel, Watership Down, the now-recognized word "tharn," meaning, frozen or stupefied in terror, caught in the headlights of an oncoming disaster.

The second was when, in more than 350 newspapers with circulation of more than 10 million readers, L'il Abner cartoonist Al Capp developed the hapless character Joe Btfsplic, the world's most loving friend and the worst jinx, who always travelled with a dark cloud hanging over his head, perpetually symbolizing his and society's bad luck.

Unfortunately, this seems to be where churches are on fully understanding the message of hope, the need for hope, and the opportunity presented by hope.

In 2006, noted psychologist Anthony Scioli developed an integrated theory of hope that consists of four elements — attachment, mastery, survival and spirituality, which includes contributions from psychology, anthropology, philosophy and theology.

Surely, in the name of disambiguation, our spiritual leaders in churches, synagogues and mosques can grasp this idea, this challenge, and take hold at this most wearisome juncture to help their parishioners through these incredibly trying times, and to guide them vigorously, utilizing an impassioned, curative dosage of hope.

And to provide, as Anne Frank put it so aptly, "the fresh courage to make us strong."

Ed Cowan is a media and communications consultant. He's also been a member of the board of directors for the Writer's Development Trust and the Periodical Publisher's Association of Canada.

Worth mentioning

Don't give oilsands special treatment: Enviro groups

Environmental groups are calling on delegates at an energy and climate meeting in Washington, D.C., to resist Canada's attempts to get special treatment for oilsands emissions.

Matt Price, with Environment Defence Canada, says Canadians expect leadership on climate change, not lobbying by their federal government for loopholes for oilsands producers.

Price says his group sent an information package to the embassies of all countries participating in this week's energy and climate forum in Washington.

The environmental activist accuses the Canadian government of trying to weaken efforts to tackle climate change, especially as it relates to oilsands.

Price says some countries may not be aware that the oilsands plants in Alberta are the fastest growing source of emissions in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online chatter

Re: What are you doing to protect yourself from the swine flu epidemic?

I'm trying not to breathe but I keep passing out.

TWEET BY MR ROCK&ROLL

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Metro Online Poll Results

40% SAID YES

Is there too much fuss being made about swine flu?

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

60% SAID NO

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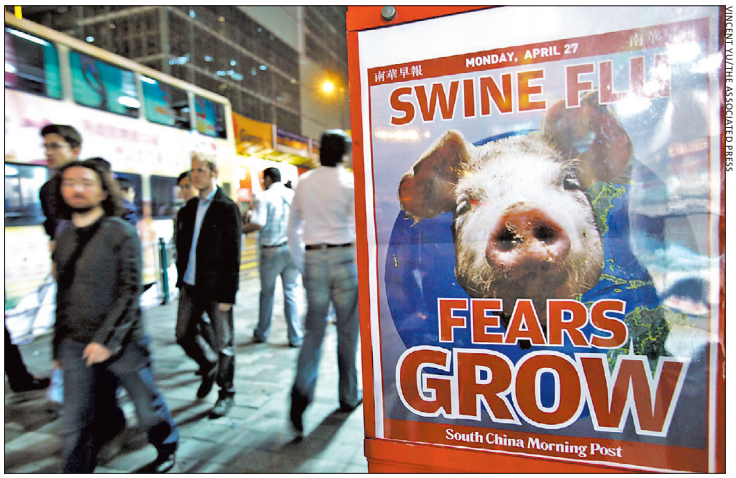
Cook suing hijacked ship's owners
The chief cook on the Maersk Alabama hijacked by Somalia pirates has sued the owners for $75,000, saying they ignored requests from sailors to improve safety. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9

World



VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A newspaper headline on a downtown street in Hong Kong yesterday where the government and universities aim to jointly develop a quick test for the new flu strain that will return results in four to six hours, compared to existing tests that can take two or three days.

Swine flu toll climbs

Travellers urged to skip Mexico, parts of U.S.

The top EU health official urged Europeans yesterday to postpone non-essential travel to parts of the United States and Mexico because of the swine flu virus.

Spanish health officials confirmed the first case outside North America.

Russia, Hong Kong and Taiwan said they would quarantine visitors showing symptoms of the virus.

World stock markets fell as investors worried the deadly outbreak could go global and derail any global economic recovery.

WHO alert

- The WHO set its pandemic alert at level 4, which means verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

The virus was suspected in up to 149 deaths in Mexico, the epicentre of the outbreak with almost 2,000 cases suspected, while close to 50 cases — none fatal — were confirmed in the United States and six in Canada, the World Health Organization said.

Spain's first swine flu case — confirmed by the WHO — was a young man in the town of Almansa who recently returned from Mexico for university studies. He is responding well to treatment.

New Zealand was testing 13 students, their parents and teachers who were showing flu-like symptoms after returning from Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. backs down over database

RECORDS The British government said yesterday it wants communications companies to keep records of every phone call, email and website visit made in the country. But it has decided not to set up a national database of the information, a proposal that had been condemned as a "Big Brother"-style invasion of privacy by civil liberties groups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan peace deal unravels as Taliban protest raids

DEAL Taliban militants said yesterday their peace deal with the Pakistani government was "worthless" after authorities deployed helicopters and artillery against hideouts of Islamist guerrillas seeking to extend their grip along the Afghan border.

Asif Ali Zardari

President Asif Ali Zardari called for more foreign support for cash-strapped Pakistan to prevent any danger of its nuclear arsenal falling into the hands of al-Qaida and its allies.

Zardari also said Pakistani intelligence thought Osama bin Laden might be dead, but said there was no evidence of the al-Qaida chief's demise.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

GROUND ZERO A low-flying Boeing 747 and a fighter jet over lower Manhattan caused a brief panic among office workers near Ground Zero. It was part of a U.S. government photo opportunity and training mission involving a presidential plane. Workers received no official prior announcement about the exercise.

VATICAN VISIT Pope Benedict and Prince Charles discussed their mutual concern for the environment as the heir to the British throne brought his campaign to the Vatican yesterday. Charles was accompanied by his wife, Camilla. The prince and his late wife Diana had met with Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul.

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Peru grants asylum to Venezuelan opposition leader

Peru is granting asylum to a Venezuelan opposition leader who says he is a victim of political persecution by President Hugo Chavez's government. Manuel Rosales, who entered Peru as a tourist April 4, has been charged with corruption in Venezuela. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sri Lanka says it will stop air strikes, shelling in war zone

PRESSURE The Sri Lankan government, under intense pressure to prevent civilian deaths, said yesterday it would immediately stop air strikes and artillery attacks, but rejected calls for a ceasefire in its war against Tamil Tiger rebels.

The military says it stopped using such weapons weeks ago, but a rebel official said government air strikes continued even after the decision was announced.

Sri Lankan forces attacked the rebel-held coastal village of Mullivaikal in the north with heavy machine-gun fire early yesterday, a rebel-linked website reported. The village is in a no-fire zone inside rebel territory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karzai vows change

Afghan President Hamid Karzai vowed yesterday to change a law critics say legalizes marital rape to remove concerns that it violates human rights.

Numerous countries condemned the law, prompting Karzai to suspend the legislation for a judicial review.

"Amendments will take place," and the law "will not have any concerns on any account of human rights and especially the rights of the Afghan people," Karzai told reporters at a joint news conference with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The statement appeared to put to rest speculation that Karzai signed the law to pander to conservatives ahead of this summer's presidential election.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interpretation

- Part of Afghanistan's constitution says the Qur'an is the ultimate authority. The constitution also guarantees equal rights for men and women. Critics say the law uses an outdated interpretation of the Qur'an.

PATRICE BERGERON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maj. Martine Belanger, shown Sunday in Kandahar, has officiated at ramp ceremonies for both Canadian female soldiers who died in the last fortnight.

Chaplain has emotional beginning to Afghan tour

KANDAHAR Afghanistan has never been a very hospitable place where women were concerned, but the start of Maj. Martine Belanger's tour of duty has been even more difficult than most.

The Catholic lay chaplain has become a familiar face at Kandahar Airfield after she presided recently over ramp ceremonies for Canada's two latest fallen soldiers, both of them women — Trooper Karine Blais, 21, on April 13, and Maj. Michelle Mendes 10 days later.

"(The ceremonies) were difficult for me," Belanger, who's in charge of the chaplaincy for the Royal 22e Regiment's 2nd Battalion tactical group, recently told The Canadian Press.

"They are such solemn events and you can feel the need of the community to gather and to show their respects."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Belanger

- Belanger was born in Ottawa and raised in Quebec.
- She's one of 35 chaplains and 15 pastoral counsellors in the Canadian military.

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News in brief

MEXICO A strong earthquake struck central Mexico yesterday, swaying buildings in the capital and sending office workers into the streets. The quake had a magnitude of 5.6 and was centred about 80 kilometres from the resort of Acapulco.

TURKEY A five-hour police shootout with a leftist militant in Istanbul left three people dead, including the militant described as a top member of a group tied to the Kurdish separatist PKK, authorities said. A police officer and an onlooker also were killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Energy explorer's founder says he and CEO forced out

The founder of Canadian Superior Energy, Greg Noval, says he and CEO Mike Coolen were forced to leave the Calgary-based energy explorer after a public spat with U.S. institutional investor Palo Alto Investors that included allegations of conflict of interest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

EU, Canada trade talks a go

The European Union endorsed plans yesterday to open negotiations with Canada on a new free-trade pact. The negotiations will launch at an EU-Canada leaders summit in Prague on May 6.

The "enhanced" trade deal will aim to open up trade in areas including investment services, government procurement and agriculture goods. The deal will also aim to include a first-time agreement to allow the temporary movement of workers between Canada and the 27-member bloc and include efforts to bring into line regulatory rules.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest has said a trade deal is the best way to counterbalance Canada's dependence on the American market. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Benefit to Canada, European Union

- A study evaluating the benefits of closer economic ties concluded a deal could open up trade worth $18 billion per year for the European Union and $13 billion annually for Canada.

PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

General Motors president and CEO Fritz Henderson listens to a conference call yesterday regarding its viability plan in Detroit.

GM cuts deep and wide

BAILOUT General Motors Corp. could be majority owned by the U.S. government and the United Auto Workers under a massive restructuring plan laid out yesterday that will cut 21,000 U.S. factory jobs by next year and phase out the storied Pontiac brand.

The plan, which includes an offer to swap $27 billion US in bond debt for GM stock, would leave current shareholders holding just one per cent of the firm.

In Canada, GM said it will slash its hourly workforce by half by 2014, to 4,400 from the current 10,300 and reduce its dealer network to about 400 from 705 by the end of next year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

CELLPHONES The head of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association says it's going to be a challenge to get new technology in place by 2010 allowing 9-1-1 dispatchers to pinpoint the location of a cellphone caller during an emergency. Bernard Lord says more than half of 9-1-1 calls are now made with cellphones. He says it will be up to the wireless carriers to decide if they will hike fees to cover upgrades. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Getting back to basics

New family and job, new taxes

MoneyMatters

Q Every year, for the past six years, I have prepared my own tax return. But I got married last year and my new bride had two kids from a previous marriage. Also I started working as an independent consultant. Should I go at it alone? — Adrian

A The tax-filing deadline for most is midnight April 30. Self-employed individuals and their spouse have 45 days extra, to June 15, to file. The decision to engage the help of a tax professional is one that you must make yourself.

You do have several new issues such as child deductions and credits, spousal amounts and transfers, but most concerning is self-employed income. You will need to know the tax rules pertaining to self-employed individuals. For the adventurous, here are a few tips:

- All taxpayers can claim the basic personal amount of $9,600. Individuals should have no income taxes to pay, if income less than this amount.
- Claim for spouse or common-law partner $9,600, if spouse has nil income; less if spouse works.
- Single, separated or divorced claim for children under 18 anytime during the year.

There are many more: Visit the CRA website.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca and 416-489-7800, ext. 227.

SmartCookies

South of the border, our neighbours have dedicated an entire month to the importance of establishing and maintaining healthy financial habits by proclaiming April Financial Awareness Month. We thought we'd help spread the word by sharing some of our suggestions of how you can get more familiar with your finances.

Know Your Numbers

The first thing you need to do when you decide it's time to get your financial house in order is to learn about its foundation.

To do this, you will need to know your numbers. You'll need to know what's coming in each month and what's going out each month (non-fixed expenses).

We encourage you to sit down, pull out your statements, and add your numbers up. You'll be shocked at how much you spend on non-essential items. For an easy to use template to track your spending, visit smartcookies.com.

Organize Your Debt and Build Up a Safety Net

Next, make a list of your debts owing, ranking from highest to lowest interest rate. Develop a plan on how to pay that money back, starting from the top of the list. For some of us, this meant taking on part-time jobs and contract work, or cutting out non-essentials from our spending plan, and for others it meant using the equity in our home.

Once you are debt-free, build yourself a cushion of at least four to six months salary. And make sure you are investing your money in a tax-free savings account. You work hard for your money; make sure it is working for you.

"Keep your total balance owed to 35 per cent or less of your total credit available."

Fix Your Fico

FICO scores, the credit scores most lenders use to determine your credit risk, range from 300 to 900. The higher your FICO score, the lower risk you are considered to be to a creditor — and the less interest you'll pay.

Most importantly, you should review your credit report and know your credit score. Requesting a copy of your credit report for personal use does not affect your credit score. To order a copy of your credit score, visit transunion.ca or equifax.ca.

To keep your score high you should be making monthly payments on time, aim to have long-term credit in your name and keep your total balance owed to 35 per cent or less of your total credit available.

For more money saving tips, pick up a copy of our book Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough on sale in bookstores. You can email questions or comments to smartcookies@metronews.ca.

Tune in Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small discusses the importance of the U.S. bank stress tests. Visit metronews.ca/investing

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As to Disney properties/artwork: ©Disney

Thomas, Mason highlight Vezina nominees

Tim Thomas of the Boston Bruins, Niklas Backstrom of the Minnesota Wild and rookie Steve Mason of the Columbus Blue Jackets are the finalists for the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender, the league announced yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

NASCAR says fans are safe

Despite injuries to fans from flying debris, NASCAR is satisfied with its safety standards, saying the fence at Talladega Superspeedway did what it was supposed to do and keep Carl Edwards' car, left, out of the grandstands. In a spectacular last-lap accident Sunday, Edwards' car sailed upside-down into the fence. One fan remained in hospital with a broken jaw yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Brashear suspended six

NHL The NHL has suspended Washington Capitals forward Donald Brashear for six games. He received a five-game ban for a blindside hit on New York Rangers forward Blair Betts during the first period of Sunday's Eastern Conference quarter-final game. Betts suffered a broken orbital bone on the play and is out indefinitely. NHL disciplinarian Colin Campbell says he felt the hit was delivered late and targeted Betts' head.

Brashear

Brashear received an additional one-game suspension for initiating contact with Rangers forward Colton Orr during the pregame warm-up.

Game 7 of the series is set for tonight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

BOXING Greg Page, a former heavyweight boxing champion who suffered a severe brain injury in a 2001 fight, died at his Kentucky home yesterday. He was 50. The March 9, 2001, fight left Page in a coma for nearly a week. He then had a stroke during post-fight surgery. He was paralyzed on his left side and received intensive physical therapy. Page won a $1.2-million US settlement in 2007 with Kentucky boxing officials over the lack of medical personnel at the fight.

OLYMPICS Canadian Olympians Kelly VanderBeek and David Ford have tied the knot. The couple married in a small outdoor ceremony over the weekend at a resort on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast. VanderBeek is a downhill skier from Kitchener, while Ford is a whitewater kayaker from Edmonton.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

New Clemens book details his Jays days

Even after two books detailing Roger Clemens' involvement with steroids, Blue Jays president Paul Beeston remains shocked that the former Blue Jays star is defending his career and character against steroid abuse.

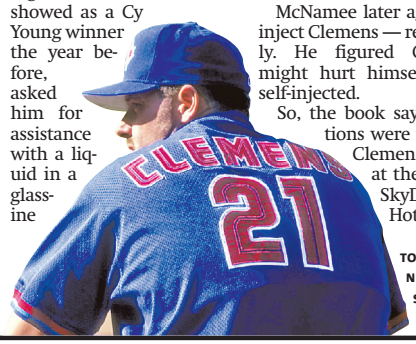
Details, including former Jays strength coach Brian McNamee's trepidation over injecting Clemens in the buttocks, surfaced in excerpts this week from an upcoming book entitled American Icon: The Fall of Roger Clemens and the Rise of Steroids in America's Pastime.

Written by the award-winning sports I-Team at New York Newsday, the book exposes the last decade of Clemens' career, including alleged steroid injections while with the Jays in 1998, and various extra-marital relationships.

For a full recap of last night's Jays/Royals game, visit **metronews.ca**

"Yeah, to be honest with you (I'm shocked)," Beeston said yesterday.

McNamee recalls in the book how Clemens, with a 6-6 record in 1998 and fading from the form he showed as a Cy Young winner the year before, asked him for assistance with a liquid in a glass-ine bottle because, "I can't inject it in my booty."



Clemens at first showed McNamee an aspirin-like bottle containing white pills, and said, "What do you think of these?"

Jose Canseco, the Jays DH at the time, sitting in an adjacent locker, said, "That looks like Anadrol-50," then popped a couple of the tablets into his mouth.

McNamee later agreed to inject Clemens — reluctantly. He figured Clemens might hurt himself if he self-injected.

So, the book says, injections were made in Clemens' room at the former SkyDome Hotel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL Flames try to stay alive

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chicago's Kris Versteeg has his shot deflected by Calgary Flames goalie Miikka Kiprusoff last night. With Calgary facing elimination, defenceman Dion Phaneuf sat the game out after taking a hit in Saturday's Game 5. For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports.

For a complete recap of Game 6 of the Sharks/Ducks series, visit **metronews.ca/sports**

Another CIS standout heading south to the NFL

PERRY LEFKO
for Metro Canada

Running back Jamall Lee is about to fulfil a dream by becoming a professional football player, following in the footsteps of his father, Orville, more than 20 years ago.

But whereas his father commenced his career with the CFL's Ottawa Rough Riders in 1988, Jamall will start his journey in the NFL, specifically with the Carolina Panthers.

Following the conclusion of the NFL draft Sunday, the Panthers signed the 22-year-old B.C. native as a free agent. Lee played four years with Bishop's University in Quebec, amassing more than 4,200 rushing yards and impressing people with his speed and size.

Lee had some discussions with the Panthers in the weeks leading up to the draft, leading him to believe they would select him as a free agent.

"There was a lot of interest and if it was going to be only one team it was going to be that team, but it was still amazing to hear it," he told Metro.

"It felt great to get the phone call. This is one of the big goals, but there's many more," he added.

"You've still got to make the squad, you've got to stay healthy, you've got to make the team and work your way up. When I get down there, I've got to give them a reason for me to stay."

He leaves Thursday for the Panthers' mini-camp.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous or anything like that, but I have a lot of people around me and people who have been through the experience, whether the NFL or the CFL, and they've all been passing their knowledge on to me, so I feel I'm prepared that way."

Jamall Lee is the son of former CFL star Orville Lee.

Lee is eligible for the CFL draft, which takes place Saturday. His father was selected first overall in his draft year and was named the CFL's rookie of the year and runner-up as outstanding Canadian.

"I'd like to know what's happening in the CFL draft because it's really still a big deal for me, but other than that I'll try to keep my mind on the task at hand," he said.

It is expected Jamall will be selected in the first round, possibly by B.C., which has picks four through six and can afford to wait on Lee if he sticks in Carolina.

On Sunday, Western Ontario defensive lineman Vaughn Martin was selected in the fourth round of the NFL draft by the San Diego Chargers.

Pierse, Schmuland capture CIS honours

University of British Columbia swimmer Annamay Pierse and University of Alberta volleyball player Joel Schmuland were named the 2008-09 Canadian Interuniversity Sport female and male athletes of the year at the 17th annual BLG Awards ceremony yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Former NBAer Williams Tasered

PEOPLE Officers stunned a drunken and agitated Jayson Williams with a Taser at a Manhattan hotel early yesterday after reports that the troubled ex-NBA star appeared suicidal, police said. Emergency Services Unit police, a team trained to deal with emotionally disturbed people, responded and stunned Williams with a Taser before taking him to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. Williams played nine seasons with the Nets and 76ers. He was convicted in 2004 of trying to cover up the shooting death of his hired driver Costas Christofi at his New Jersey mansion in 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Printezis could fill a void

As he begins his off-season quest for a better roster, Raptors GM Bryan Colangelo is beginning to sound more and more like Brian Burke, his Maple Leafs counterpart.

"There's definitely an edge to him ... he could very well fill that need."
Raptors GM Bryan Colangelo

Colangelo, once a builder of soft-as-Italian-cashmere finesse teams, is suddenly in the market for Burkean truculence, and perhaps his brain trust will find it in Berlin, site of this weekend's Euroleague final four.

That's where Giorgos Printezis, the rugged Greek forward whose NBA rights are owned by the Raptors, will be attempting to help Athens-based Olympiacos defeat Panathinaikos in Friday's semifinal.

"There's definitely an edge to him," said Colangelo of Printezis, 24. "He could very well fill that (need for toughness)."

There are a couple of factors that make the 6-foot-8 Athenian desirable and a possible candidate for a jump to Toronto.

For one, the Raptors hold Printezis' NBA draft rights, acquired last year from San Antonio for a second-round pick.

For another, he's a free agent at the end of this season, which means the Raptors wouldn't have to pay the typically pricey buyout to extricate him from his contract.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Surgery for Jose

- Jose Calderon is soon expected to undergo surgery in Toronto to repair a damaged ligament in his left ring finger.

NBA Hawks even with Heat

WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hawks forward Josh Smith attempts to block a shot by Miami's Michael Beasley last night. Atlanta won 81-71 to square the series at 2-2. For a full recap, visit metronews.ca/sports.

For full recaps of Game 4 of the Hornets/Nuggets series and Game 5 of the Jazz/Lakers series, visit **metronews.ca/sports**

CONCACAF cancels rest of u-17 tourney due to swine flu

SOCCER CONCACAF says it is cancelling the rest of its under-17 championship in Mexico because of concerns about swine flu.

CONCACAF, which oversees soccer in North and Central America and the Caribbean, also will delay the second leg of its Champions League final between CD SC Cruz Azul and Atlante FC, both Mexican clubs, for two weeks, until May 12.

Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and the United States had clinched spots in tomorrow's semifinals of the U-17 tournament, which was being played in Tijuana.

Mexico is the epicentre of the swine flu outbreak.

Canada was eliminated from the tournament over the weekend and travelled to San Diego by bus Sunday morning.

After the Mexican government announced it was closing schools nationwide, CONCACAF decided to abandon the tournament "to safeguard the health of players, officials and fans."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PLAY IT SAFE

GO Transit is proud to support National Rail Safety Public Awareness Week, April 27 to May 3. The aim is to educate the public on safety around railway crossings and tracks, and at train stations. Every day, people endanger their lives and the lives of others by trespassing on railway tracks, improperly or illegally crossing tracks, or taking other serious risks. Remember to play it safe and always obey railway warning signs and signals. Look, Listen and Live!

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a) yellow
b) blue
c) green

2 When is it okay to cross in front of an approaching train?

a) when you're late
b) when you're really late
c) NEVER

3 I can cross railway tracks

a) wherever I want to
b) only at an authorized and properly marked crossing
c) wherever there isn't a fence

To learn more about rail safety, please visit the Safety and Security section at gotransit.com

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Milo, the Jack Russel Terrier puppy, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Back where they belong

Paws and Claws

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

ROBYN YOUNG/FOR METRO CANADA

Jiha Humayun is a self-taught wild animal expert. She has worked at the Toronto Humane Society for six years.

Jiha Humayun lifts the corner of a green towel covering a small cage and two round, black eyes peer out from the darkness beneath.

It's a six-week old raccoon who's been abandoned by his mother and ended up in the 26-year-old's care at the Toronto Humane Society.

Humayun supervises the wildlife rehabilitation department at the shelter.

Standing in the baby wildlife room, she explains over the chattering and squeaks of tiny squirrels and raccoons that although it's hard not to adore the little critters, it's her job not to get attached.

"You have to make sure you don't socialize with them; you've got to keep them covered, which is very hard but to domesticate them is to ruin their lives," she says.

She's been working at the shelter for six years; starting in admissions she worked her way to supervisor and is now considered the resident wildlife expert.

She loves her job and more often then not, spends most of her day at her Queen and River street workplace.

The shelter takes in all kinds of wildlife including a large number of raccoons and squirrels, a variety of birds such as pigeons with leg fractures, ducks with broken wings, seagulls, Canada Geese and swans.

Baby squirrels stay for 10 to 14 weeks, raccoons for 12 to 20 weeks and the birds stay for as long as is necessary for a team of veterinarians and technicians to fix whatever is broken.

When animals are dropped off at the wildlife rehabilitation centre, intake workers make careful notes on where they were found so they can be returned to their original habitat when they're ready to be released.

While at the shelter they're kept in darkened, covered cages and Humayun and her colleagues make sure to have as little interaction with them as possible to avoid imprinting.

"Imprinted means they get used to people and they're not scared of them anymore, and we want them to be scared of people," she explains.

The baby animals are slowly weaned off of formula and given solid foods like seeds and nuts. Upon return to their natural habitats, the shelter employees bring food to the site for a few days, intermittently, until the animals can fend for themselves.

The success rate for reintegration into their natural habitat is high, Humayun says.

"Usually they just run off; they don't even look back," she says with a laugh.

The wildlife rehabilitation centre takes in lost, abandoned or injured animals found in the wild but Humayun says it's important for the general public to know when to rescue an animal and when to leave it alone.

"We advise them to leave them out there and give the mom a chance to get the baby, because 98 per cent of the time they'll move them," she says.

"The best thing is for the babies just to be with mom."

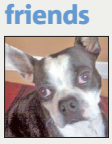
For baby animals that appear to have been lost or abandoned, the shelter recommends leaving them exactly where they are for 24 hours. If the mother has not returned by this time they may need help but it's important to call the shelter first. For more information on the Toronto Humane Society and its wildlife rehabilitation centre, visit torontohumanesociety.com.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
metronews.ca/work

Metro readers' best friends

Paws and Claws feature

- Metro would like to thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.



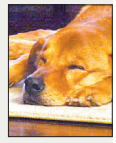
Spencer

Bebe

Buddy

Milo

Napoleon



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Walking the dog with care and compassion

Paws and **Claws**

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

In the life of a dog walker, it's not all just poop and scoop.

"We've done everything from walking puppies short distances and taking older dogs in a baby carriage, down to regular, run-of-the-mill dog walking — group walks and individual walks," says Kyle Freeman.

He's the co-owner and founder of VIP Sitters, the Toronto pet care company that has served Ontario for nine years. The VIP stands for "very important pets, people and places" and Freeman says its division, Dog Walkers R Us, specializes in providing more individual canine care, close attention ensuring the walk is more controlled.

But actually walking dogs is just one part in the VIP equation, says Freeman. Before a walker actually completes the task, he will meet with the prospective client and the dog he'll be walking to understand the pet's nature and routine.

Once both patron and pooch feel comfortable, it's up to the dog walker to deliver. "We spend some time giving (the dog) some TLC in the house so they're used to us and ask them, 'Do you want to go for a walk?', which usually brings the ears up and a big wagging tail," says Freeman.

What clients may not be used to, however, is placing puppy trust in the hands of another. That's why Freeman says his company uses an interactive voice response check-in and check-out system involving instant phone and e-mail correspondence to assure the customer their dog has been walked, and for the promised time.

"This way, it shows the client that we were there for the time we were supposed to be there," he says. "On top of that, we also do random phone checks. We call (the walkers) on their cellphones and meet with them while they're supposed to be on their walk."

Freeman says VIP Sitters also equips walkers with pepper spray, a device that emits a high-pitched noise to ward off other aggressive dogs and a water bottle to hydrate the dog they're walking. It's all part of a commitment to consistency Freeman says the company maintains.

"We always look for opportunities to upgrade our education and our knowledge … to make sure we are providing the best service for our clients and that we are better equipped to deal with situations as they arise."

From requiring walkers to undergo pet first aid and CPR training to hosting periodical courses on home safety by the Toronto Police Service and legislation and dog registration by Toronto Animal Services, Freeman says VIP walkers must be willing to become a cookie-cutter fit for the company.

"They can't like dogs. If they like dogs, they're not the right fit for this job. They have to love dogs."

Pooch info

- If you're interested in having your dog walked, please call, 416.361.0000 or visit, vipsitters.com, or email ask@vipsitters.com

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SPECIAL FOCUS ON:
Spa Living

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Assess spa cleanliness

Ask about standards, credentials, advise experts

JENNIFER YANG
for Metro Canada

Sometimes when life gets too frenzied, we need to stop, breathe and duck into the nearest spa. It's the perfect refuge — after all, where else can we go to cure both our spirits and our cuticles?

But with all that steaming and soaking, spas are also the perfect refuge for germs. Just ask Paula Abdul, who made headlines in 2004 when a dirty manicure gave her a nasty bacterial infection.

But short of smuggling in Petri dishes under our terrycloth robes, how certain can we really be when it comes to spa cleanliness? In Canada, which has an estimated 3,000 spas, not even the rules are clear; mandatory spa standards have yet to be established and the industry still lacks a national regulatory body.

"As the industry's grown in leaps and bounds, we haven't really researched and paid attention to any level of standards," says Dr. Wendy Smeltzer, owner of Calgary's Santé Spa. "It's very difficult for the public right now to go in and know if they're getting an appropriate level of cleanliness and service."

ISTOCK PHOTO

The spa industry still lacks a regulatory standards body, which is why it is important for spa-goers to ask questions about procedures. For instance, find out your spa practitioner's credentials.

There are reputable spa associations, however, and Smeltzer is a founding member of Leading Spas of Canada, a nation-wide organization of about 175 members. Having developed its own cleanliness and hygiene standards, the association is now creating a quality assurance program that will ensure spas get periodically inspected.

But for today's nervous spa-goer, Smeltzer has one tip for relaxing those worries: Ask questions, lots of them. And start from the minute you walk in the door.

"Are they knowledgeable about procedures? Do they give guidance on appropriate etiquette? Did they ask you to fill out a health form?" Smeltzer asks. "Those are keys right there."

For Wanda Love, Leading Spas of Canada CEO, the devil can be in the details. If dust bunnies are collecting or towels piling up, then perhaps corners are being cut elsewhere as well.

"Just watch for little things," Love advises. "Do you see spa members washing their hands prior to the treatment? If you're walking barefoot, are they providing you with slippers? If you're getting waxing, are they double dipping their applicator? That's not something you want to see."

And for spa expert Anne Dimon, editor of traveltowellness.com, sometimes the best proof comes on paper. Don't be embarrassed to ask for your spa practitioner's credentials, she says.

"When taking your car to get fixed you need to ask the kind of experience the mechanic has," Dimon says. "Why wouldn't you do that when someone's working on your body?"

Questions to ask at the spa

Some questions to ensure a safer spa visit:

- Did you arrive early enough? Get there half an hour before your treatment so you can survey the premises, ask necessary questions, and fill out health forms.
- Will you be using a whirlpool footbath and if so, is it being cleaned and sanitized between each use? If there are pipes attached, are they getting cleaned too?
- When it comes to paraffin wax pots, are the spatulas being double dipped? An implement should never come into contact with your skin and then be re-submerged into a wax pot.

JENNIFER YANG/ FOR METRO CANADA

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If you're craving something sweet and nutty, dole yourself one tablespoonful of peanut butter (96 calories, 8 grams fat), and smear it onto slices of a small banana (96 calories, 0 grams fat). You'll be saving calories as well as getting some fresh fruit. **BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE**

Unusual, creative spa treatments

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Would you pay to be massaged by snakes? Sucked by leeches? Have your butt scrubbed?

Welcome to the new era of spa treatments. While you can still get a good, old-fashioned pedicure, manicure or facial, there are also some very creative and unusual therapies out there in spa land.

Leech Therapy

Perhaps the most unusual spa treatment in Canada is leech therapy, offered at the award-winning Elemental Embrace wellness retreat and Ayurveda Centre in Brighton, Ont. Once you get over the "yuck" factor, you might realize leeches have a long history of healing humans. They've been used from the early Egyptian times, to Ayurvedic medicine to modern-day plastic surgery. The saliva of leeches contains a product called hirudin, an anticoagulant, which keeps blood from clotting. These slimy worms can also suck toxic blood out of the body.

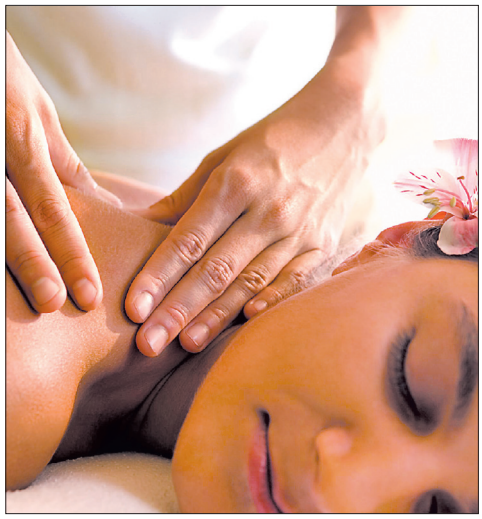
At Elemental Embrace, leeches are used for skin conditions such as psoriasis, blood diseases, tumours and unhealed wounds. "It's amazing how these blood leeches can be of great use and they always seem to know where to suck the toxic blood from," says Begum Teja, owner of the centre.

These special leeches range from about half an inch to 10 inches long and are either brown or black. Depending on the condition, therapists use between one and five leeches at a time. Results are not instant and a couple of treatments may be called for.

Indian Head Rub

Stress gone to your head? A very popular treatment at Highfields Country Inn and Spa in Zephyr, Ont., is the two-hour Indian Head Massage. This therapy is featured in the earliest Ayurvedic texts that date back 4,000 years, says innkeeper and spa director Norma Daniel. The idea is that if your energy is out of balance, you cannot be totally well, so this treatment brings your energy back into balance.

Though this massage focusses on the scalp, neck and shoulders, it also includes a full-body de-stressing massage.



Looking for a unique massage? Try Susurrus Spa's Marine Indulgence Massage, it involves a relaxing warm mixture of sea algae, honey, yogurt and oils infused with organic herbs.

Snake Massage

Another bizarre therapy is the snake massage. This is definitely not for everyone! Ada Barak, who runs a spa in the town of Talmei Elazar in Northern Israel, puts six snakes (yes, they're non-venomous) on her client's bodies. The snakes — which are California king, Florida king, milk and corn snakes — slither in a tangled mass all around the person's chest, back and neck. Once the spa client begins to trust the snakes and relax, this is is actually supposed to be quite soothing. A reporter from Time magazine tried it and liked it.

Fanny Facial

Here's a cheeky new idea: Smooth Synergy Spa in New York City is becoming known for its "fanny facial," a facial for your bum. This treatment promises "a perfectly polished derriere." The therapy involves exfoliation with papaya mint body scrub, then microcurrent therapy to alleviate bumps and, finally, an all-over spray tan.

While New Yorkers may love their rear ends pampered, it seems Canada has turned the other cheek. Susurrus Spa on Pender Island, B.C. has removed fanny facials from its spa menu, presumably due to lack of interest.

Back to the Sea

In keeping with the beautiful location of the Susurrus Spa at Poets Cove Resort and Spa on the edge of the Pacific in the Gulf Islands, the spa's clientele is more interested in sea-related treatments than fanny facials. The Marine Indulgence Massage is one of the most popular. This involves a full brushing of the body, followed by a massage with a warm mixture of micronized sea algae, honey, yogurt and oils infused with locally grown organic herbs.

Also popular is the Signature Stone Massage using local basalt and imported jade, says spa director Dagmar Wanke.

Cosmetics on the road

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

BEAUTY Want to get a free touch-up?

Joe Fresh is taking its cosmetics on the road. Visit the Joe Fresh Beauty Box, a customized truck and trailer that's on a nine-city tour of Canada.

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- Thursday, April 30 – Yonge & Dundas Square
- Friday, May 1 – Queen Street West at Soho Street
- Saturday, May 2 – Queen Street West at Soho Street
- Sunday, May 3 – Vaughan Mills Mall
- Monday, May 4 – Oakville Place Mall.

The Joe Fresh Beauty collection is offered in more than 250 stores across Canada. Its range of face, lip, eye, brush and accessory products range from $2 to $16.

For more information on the beauty tour, visit joe.ca/tour.

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More than just a manicure
Lux Spa, located at 25 Bellair St. in the heart of Yorkville, recently launched Martini-Mani-Mondays, offering manicure packages along with cocktails, treats and ideal networking opportunities for both women and men ($60 per person). METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sexual esteem in a bottle

Products/procedures send message women need to 'rejuvenate'

A new product called pk24 claims to "temporarily return the vagina to a more 'youthful' physiological state." While women may be genuinely worried about this, our columnist suspects there are other forces at work pressuring women.

It's bad enough that women are being sucked into shelling out gazillions of dollars on anti-aging creams to "plump," "regenerate," and "revitalize" various body parts in hopes of clinging to our clearly more socially valued youthful selves.

Now we're being told our privates need rejuvenating as well.

A new product called pk24 claims to "temporarily return the vagina to a more 'youthful' physiological state, enhancing sexual gratification for a woman and her partner."

Dubbed and, yes, trademarked, "Feminine Sexual Esteem" (who knew it came in a bottle), pk24 "hydrates the interior walls of the vagina and reduces its interior dimensions."

The cream's magical hydrating power comes from aloe, a basic moisturizer, while the tightening property is thanks to potassium alum, a natural astringent used in deodorant and products to seal shaving nicks and shrink hemorrhoids. It was also a secret tool used by 19th-century prostitutes.

While I'm sure there are women genuinely concerned about their lady bits, um, sagging with age, I suspect there are other forces at work pressuring us to do something about it.

For example, apparently, the female developer of the pk24 overheard a bunch of guys at a party talking about "how things had loosened up down there."

And, thanks to a very media savvy Dr. Matlock, the cosmetic surgeon behind The Laser Vaginal Rejuvenation Institute in Beverly Hills (and featured on Dr. 90210), vaginoplasties — a $4,500–$8,000 vaginal tightening surgery — are increasingly popular.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons reported that "vaginal rejuvenation" surgeries jumped from 793 in 2005 to 1,030 in 2006. This despite the fact that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have warned that the methods are unproven and potentially risky.

"I can't help but wonder: After a lifetime of gynecological concerns, childbirth and everything else our vaginas go through, don't they deserve to relax a little?"

At $60 a bottle, pk24 is certainly safer and relatively cheaper than surgery. It also has a better-sounding name than some of its competitors like Instant Virgin or Liquid Virgin.

And while it's aimed at women "experiencing vaginal relaxation — generally, the result of childbirth and aging," I can't help wonder: After a lifetime of gynecological concerns, childbirth and everything else our vaginas go through, don't they deserve to relax a little?

For more info, go to pk24.com.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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EYE CARE Glaucoma is an eye disease that can sneak up on you, and rob you of your vision.

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CELIA MILNE/
FOR METRO NEWS SERVICE

G11

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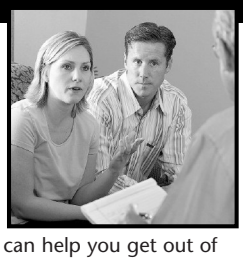

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Please contact the study coordinator Natasha Kachan at natasha.kachan@gmail.com or 416-946-7840 if you are interested in participating in this survey.

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Express your thanks — or not

While the amount of any tip is up to the individual client, the spa industry norm is 15 per cent. Most establishments provide gratuity envelopes at the reception desk so you can leave individual envelopes for each employee. **BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE**

Spa smarts

Tips to ensure your money's well spent

ANNA HOBBS
for Metro Canada

Whether you're headed for an indulgent treatment at a day spa or a weekend of revitalization, here's how to ensure your money is well spent.

Ask before you go

Taking time for yourself is a luxury, and you don't want it to be anything less than perfect. So start out by settling some basic matters. "When you make the appointment, ask questions such as 'Are robes and slippers supplied? Should I bring a swimsuit?'" advises Liz Conway, marketing director of Premier Spas of Ontario.

Look for credentials

One hallmark of a good spa is membership in a national or international spa association. Leading Spas of Canada, for example, is a national association with some 150 members from coast to coast who must adhere to a protocol of standards and practices.

"Complaints such as an unkempt facility or an unpleasant experience lead to tough inspections," says Donna Holtom, president of the association. In Canada, Spas Relais Santé in Quebec and Premier Spas of Ontario are the only provincial associations that conduct regular inspections.

Check staff qualifications

Ask about the training of the massage therapists. Training varies from province to province, but if the therapists have a registered massage therapist designation, it means they have not only received intensive training, but can provide reimbursable receipts for a medical benefits plan.

Fill out forms

Reputable spas require clients to complete a health assessment form prior to treatment. Some establishments go even further, requiring that therapists sign that they have read it.

If you haven't been asked to complete a form, be sure to tell the therapist or aesthetician about any pre-existing conditions such as recent surgery or diabetes.

Skip the makeup

If having a facial, avoid wearing makeup (if possible) both before and after. Unless it's absolutely necessary, don't wash your hair immediately after a scalp massage. Let the massage oil work its magic for a few hours.

Turn off your cellphone

Come prepared not only to enjoy your spa experience, but to make the very most of it. "Check your worries and your BlackBerry at the door," recommends Kelly Jamieson, manager of Zest Spa at The Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax.

Extend your day spa visit

With a day spa, find out if there are extras such as a hot tub, swimming pool, sauna, gym and relaxing lounge, so you can extend the experience and its benefits. Is there a café or restaurant should you decide to make a day of it and wish to have lunch?

Allow at least half an hour to relax after you're finished your treatment(s) so you can melt into a comfy lounge chair with a cup of tea before re-entering the real world. Consider getting a ride home instead of having to cope with stressful city traffic. Or, when planning an out-of-town spa visit, ask whether the spa offers transportation from a train or bus station, to save having to drive.

Spa links

For more information, visit:
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- premierspasofontario.ca
- spasrelaissante.com
- viarail.ca/spatrain

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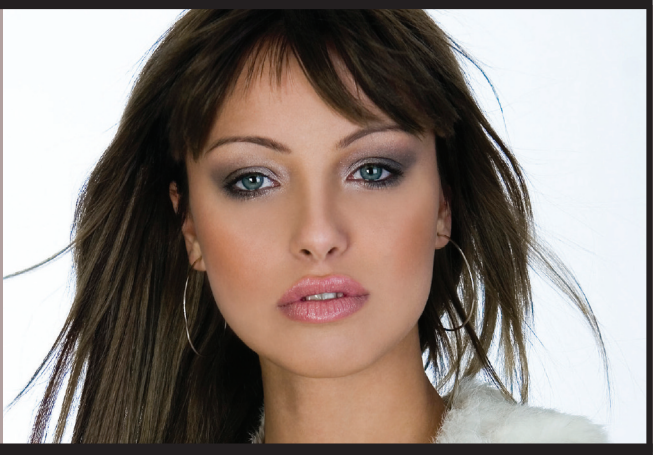

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Bicycle? Scooter? ... It's both

"In some ways it's easier than riding a bike," Rodger Knight says of the Kickbike.

An adult version of a scooter, Kickbikes have been used in Scandinavian countries since the early 1990s. They were popularized by kicksledding and dog scootering — used to keep sled dogs in shape in summer.

"You sure get a lot of people stopping and saying `Geez, that looks like fun — can I try it?'" says Knight, of Brampton. "One time I was going by a wedding, and they asked if the bride could get on my Kickbike for a photo."

Knight is the sole Canadian importer (kickbikeontario.ca) of the overgrown scooter available in different street models that sell for $295 to $340. With no pedals, chains or gears — handbrakes to stop — axles with low-resistance ball bearings give the glide to a Kickbike, which weighs just 10 to 13 kilograms.

"In some ways it's easier than riding a bike, since the centre of gravity is lower and the fear of falling isn't there," says Knight.

Propulsion involves a forward push and "pendulum kick," using the left leg by right-handed riders and right leg by lefties. Two styles of leg-change — "heel roll" and "hop step" — are used to reach speeds that have hit 40 km/h on flats and up to 90 km/h clocked on a downhill run by the Millennium Racer model.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

An adult version of a scooter, Kickbikes work by employing a forward push and "pendulum kick," using the left leg by right-handed riders and right leg by lefties.

Hannu Vierriko, of Finland, the 10-time world racing champ, manufactures Kickbikes. Outside of Scandinavia, they're popular in Australia; Italy will host this year's Kickbike World Cup in June.

Knight says his wife rides hers to do chores and shop. He takes his for interval training at workout stations along the Etobicoke Creek.

"It's a low-impact, good cardio workout that uses your major muscles — glutes, quads and core," he says of the activity that is estimated to burn 820 calories an hour for a 165-pound person travelling at a moderate speed of 18 km/h.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On-the-go colours for spring

BEAUTY Are you a trendsetter on the go?

Then try Nic's new Sticks Paint & Go Nail Lacquers. They are easy to use, portable and convenient nail colours that can bring bold colour to your spring '09 wardrobe.

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METRO NEWS SERVICE

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Spears' boyfriend charged
Casey Aldridge — the father of Jamie Lynn Spears' 10-month-old daughter Maddie — has been charged with careless operation of a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor, after a single-car crash on Sunday, TMZ reports. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

Tech support
Hilary Duff has to be supervised when using the Internet. Duff struggles with technology and asks her boyfriend, Ottawa Senator Mike Comrie, to help when surfing the web. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Death Row finds new life

Canadian company takes over groundbreaking label

JASON RICHARDS
for Metro Canada

No one was more surprised than Lara Lavi when her fledgling label, WIDEawake, beat out the considerably more major Warner Music Group at the bankruptcy auction for Death Row Records in January.

"I honestly wonder what happened there," Lavi says. "We thought they were going to aggressively outbid us. Maybe they thought the sky was the limit for us."

After spending $18 million, WIDEawake now has the gangsta rap-pioneering label's whole catalogue (including classic and unreleased material by Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg) at its disposal, and the limit really is the sky. If they wanted, they could licence those records ad nauseam to anyone and everyone. Thankfully, the new label has no intention of lowering that music's integrity.

"It's not going to be a case of us saying let's make a Barry Manilow-Tupac remix album," assures WIDEawake's vice president John Payne, who was a studio engineer during Death Row's early days.

"Or a Fergie-Tupac record," Lavi adds.

Which is a relief for the late rapper's fans, who had to witness Tupac's legacy watered down by a stream of poor posthumous releases slapped together in the years following his death.

But even if Lavi and Payne changed their tune and decided to bless Fergie with a Tupac ghost vocal, they'd be met with a share of resistance. Ever since the Death Row purchase, WIDEawake's staff has been inundated with messages from people who care deeply about the catalogue's fate.

"Everybody has been telling us what and what not to do, kindly, and sometimes forcefully," says Payne.

And while WIDEawake promises to move forward respectfully, down to seeking feedback from every artist concerned, obviously there's tremendous market potential for all the material they now own.

GETTY IMAGES

FILE PHOTO

Toronto-based WIDEawake acquired rap label Death Row Records in Januray for $18 million. The company now controls a catalogue that includes material by Tupac Shakur, above, Snoop Dogg, left, and others.

In addition to a storage room in Los Angeles that Lavi compares entering to "walking into the end of the Raiders Of The Lost Ark," Death Row boasts a seemingly infinite supply of video footage and roughly 4,000 more songs discovered in Michigan.

"The catalogue is far more vast than anyone had realized," says Payne. "There's R&B. There's gospel. There's things that people wouldn't assume when they think 'Death Row.' So there's gonna be a lot more surprises, some very very good surprises."

Naturally, WIDEawake intends to harness the internet's power to deliver said surprises. Expect an online portal, which will feature a Death Row TV channel to feature artists and exclusive tracks, as well as message boards for interaction among the label's community of fans.

And it is ultimately all about community for Lavi and Payne, in terms of the stable of artists Death Row had developed over the years as well as potential newcomers to the label. WIDEawake sees the future of Death Row as an opportunity to get past the negativity of gangsta rap turf wars that had overshadowed the label's original goal — making good music.

Says Payne, "We just want to get back to the original intent."

TIFF to keep scope despite recession

Piers Handling

MOVIES The Toronto International Film Festival says it won't be scaling back because of the recession.

Festival director Piers Handling says the same number of titles will unspool when the annual movie marathon gets underway in September.

"We want to present the same size festival," Handling said yesterday following an elaborate press conference to announce federal funds for TIFF and other cultural events.

"We think it feels very comfortable this year — it's still a relatively cheap ticket for the audience to come to the festival that's important for us to keep it still accessible."

The assurance came as Peter Kent, minister of state of foreign affairs, announced a $3-million boost for the film festival. The cash is part of Ottawa's marquee tourism events program, designed to pump $100 million into various festivals and attractions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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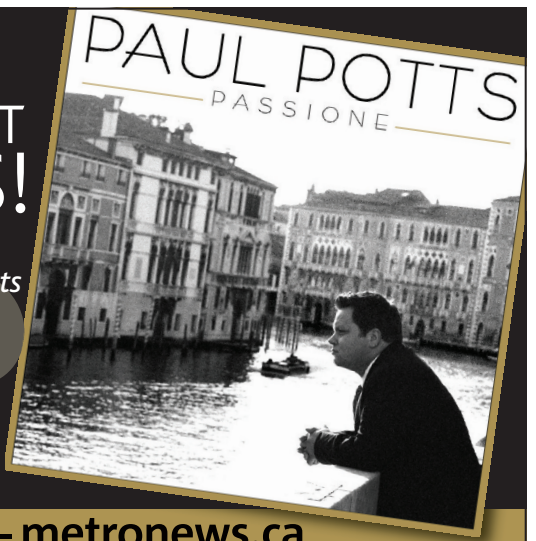

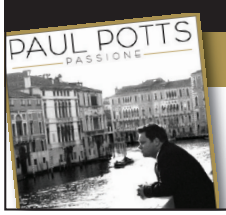

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metro

BET channel targets older audience

BET, the leading network tailored for black teens and young adults, will be joined by a new channel aimed at an older black audience. Named Centric, it's scheduled to debut in October in the United States. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Budget-friendly music options

So you can't afford the big-name shows? Here are five budget-friendly music alternatives:

GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO: MANDOU

Every rock fan should probably see Bruce Springsteen, left, and the E-Street Band at least once, but if you can't afford tickets for the May 7 concert then local singer-songwriter Justin Rutledge, right, is a logical, and cheaper, substitute. He plays the Mod Club on May 29.

Boss vs. Man: Sure, every rock fan should probably see Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band at least once in his or her lifetime. You're likely not getting near the Boss' May 7 date at the Air Canada Centre without paying well above the $67.50 and $115 asking price for tickets that have long been scooped up so why not give another perceptive, literate singer-songwriter a chance? Justin Rutledge. He doesn't rock out like Springsteen, but Rutledge can spin a yarn just as well and his last album, Man Descending, was the sound of an artist on his way up, not the sound of an artist creaking past his prime. Even better, tickets to the Mod Club show May 29 will run you just $15 through Ticketmaster.

Coldplay Vs. Pilot Speed: Coldplay is generously offering 500-level seats to their July 30 gig at the Rogers Centre for $39.50, a bargain compared to the $79.50 and $99.50 demanded for an actual view of the stage or the whopping $5,200 someone's asking for a killer spot on the floor at Tickets Now.com. Still, you could duplicate the 500-level experience by placing a ghetto blaster in your neighbour's yard and playing A Rush of Blood to the Head at highly distorted top volume. A cheaper option is the new Pilot Speed album, Wooden Bones, which arrives in stores this week and likely won't cost you much more than $12 or $13 at reputable record stores. The band's long been half-maligned for being Toronto's own budding Coldplay, but the new disc places Pilot Speed (formerly Pilate) in the "much improved" category.

Edge Vs. Edgefest: Crappy seats for U2's two dates at the Rogers Centre on Sept. 16 and 17 are going for $32, well below the $97 and $252 being charged for more human conditions. Once again, though, you're not getting those prime spots at this point without seeing a scalper of one variety or another and the corporate site TicketsNow.com has tickets topping out at $8,453. For that amount, you could buy a $55 ticket to Edgefest at Downsview Park on June 20 for yourself and 152 of your friends. And you'd get to see 17 relevant acts — Billy Talent, AFI, Metric, Alexisonfire, k-os, the Stills and Beast, among them — for that one ticket, not the bloated spectacle that is U2.

Diana Vs. Sophie: If you're a vocal jazz fan whose recession budget can't accommodate the $77 to $127 tickets for Diana Krall's Massey Hall shows this Thursday and Friday, there's a pleasurable local alternative. If you like Krall's laid-all-the-way-back approach to standards then you'll appreciate Sophie Milman's sensual interpretations. The husky-voiced songstress has a free 12:15 p.m. show at the Waterfall Stage inside First Canadian Place on May 7. The Russian native, who has sold more than 100,000 copies of her 2004 self-titled debut and topped iTunes jazz charts, will be previewing her third album, Take Love Easy, which includes songs by Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, Paul Simon and Joni Mitchell. And if you're still craving Krall, then May 20 at 7 p.m. select Cineplex theatres will show Diana Krall Live in Rio ($12.50). The concert filmed last November finds the singer doing Brazilian favourites such as The Boy From Ipanema and Quiet Nights, which also appear on her new bossa nova-flavoured album and are most certainly on the Massey Hall set list.

Ross Vs. k-os: If hip hop's your thing then the May 7 Spring Ting 2009 at Mississauga's Hershey Centre with Miami headliner Rick Ross, whose Deeper Than Rap is set to hit the top of Billboard's album chart this week, is certain to entice. Yung Joc, Bobby V and Ron Browz round out the lineup. But why shell out up to $115 (tickets start at $36) for this sketchy undercard and even sketchier poseur Ross? May I suggest instead music with integrity: The "free to get in, pay what you want" k-os gig at the Kool Haus May 9. Yes! is being heralded as the proud Whitby native's best album to date and is already vying for one of the year's top discs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Too much for TV

A British advertising watchdog has demanded cuts be made to an anti-domestic violence PSA starring Keira Knightley, saying some scenes are too shocking for TV audiences. Knightley did the PSA on behalf of U.K. charity Women's Aid. EONLINE.COM

Ohio crowds line up for Leno's next free Comedy Stimulus show

COMEDY Residents of Wilmington, Ohio, who've been rocked by thousands of layoffs at the local airport or otherwise struggling to survive in the shaky economy are hoping laughter is the best medicine.

More than 2,000 people picked up tickets yesterday to next month's free comedy show by Jay Leno, who is bringing his act to southwest Ohio as a morale booster. People sat in lawn chairs or on the ground to form lines that stretched out from four entrances to the Roberts Centre, where Leno will hold his Comedy Stimulus show May 10. Penny Tapp, 57, arrived about 7 a.m. more than four hours before the distribution of 4,000 tickets began.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jay Leno

Tapp, who lost her freight delivery job in November, said Leno has a big heart for doing the show.

"It's like stretching your arms out and hugging the community and saying 'It's going to be OK,'" said Tapp, who began to choke up with emotion. "I think it's tremendously important."

Wilmington, a city of 12,000, has drawn national attention as a vivid example of the economic struggles of small U.S. communities during the recession. Leno also has performed free comedy concerts in the recession-wracked Detroit area. THE ASSOCIATED PRES

Canadian actors set for Showcase dramas

Actors Callum Keith Rennie, Luke Kirby and Clark Johnson are returning to series television in two new dramas set for Showcase.

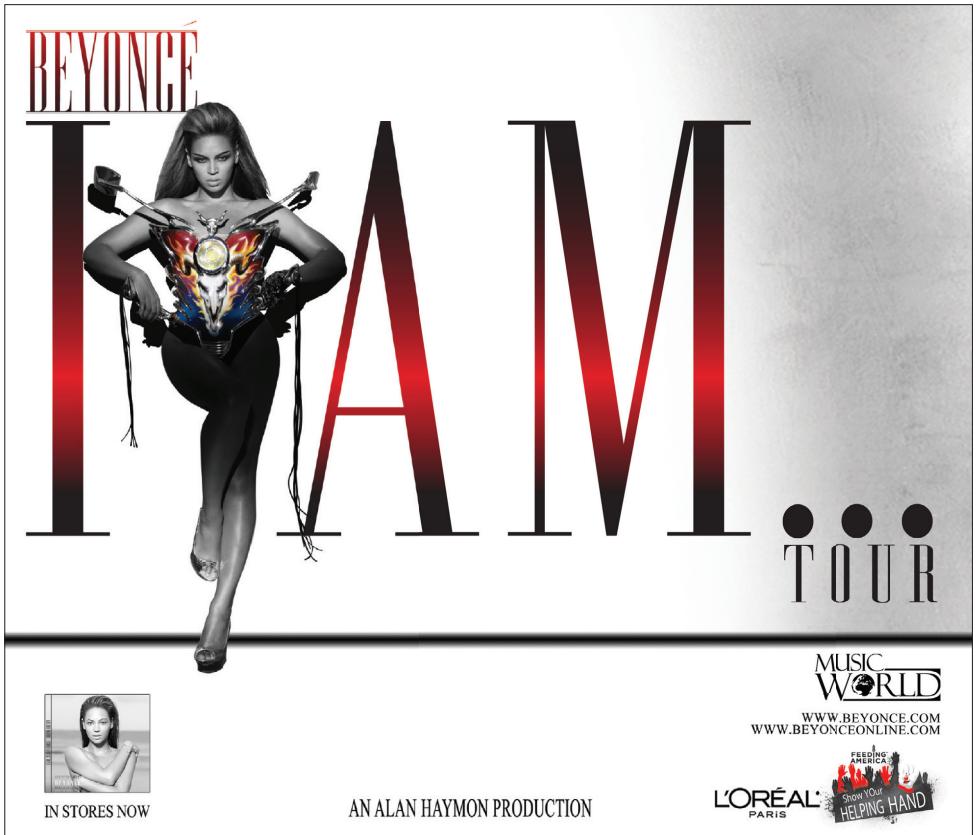
SCOTT GRIES/GETTY IMAGES

Callum Keith Rennie

Edmonton's Rennie will star in the hour-long series Shattered, about a brilliant detective whose multiple personality disorder has a major impact on his job. He was last seen in the U.S. series Battlestar Galactica and Californication.

Meanwhile, Johnson and Kirby will star in the tentatively titled Lawyers, Guns and Money, about a claims adjuster who must manoeuvre his way around insurance scams and the criminal underworld in Hamilton. The Toronto-raised Johnson was a regular on the U.S. series, The Wire, while Hamilton's Kirby appeared on Tell Me You Love Me and Slings and Arrows. Canwest says both one-hour dramas begin production this summer. Lawyers, Guns and Money is produced by Toronto-based Whizbang Films Inc., and Shattered is produced by E1 Entertainment and Force Four Films Ltd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Leachman joins medical drama

Cloris Leachman is checking into the hospital at the heart of HawthoRNe, TNT's new medical drama premiering Tuesday, June 16, and starring Jada Pinkett Smith and Michael Vartan. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Meatier movies ahead

There's more to summer than blockbuster fluff

It's the time of year when most films go "bang" and "crash" and "zoom" and "snap," when the multiplexes are packed on multiple screens with animated movies and blockbusters.

But if you look carefully enough, you'll find some smarter, more challenging pictures that aim to make you think and feel, not just dazzle you with high-tech visuals or tickle your funny bone.

Call it counter-programming, movies for grown-ups, whatever. Regardless of the label, serious movies have done seriously well come summertime.

M. Night Shyamalan's The Sixth Sense came out in August 1999 and rode its buzzed-about plot twist to nearly US $300 million in domestic box office alone. More recently, we've seen smaller movies like Garden State (July 2004), Little Miss Sunshine (July 2006), Once' (May 2007) and Frozen River (August 2008) enjoy critical acclaim and awards success.

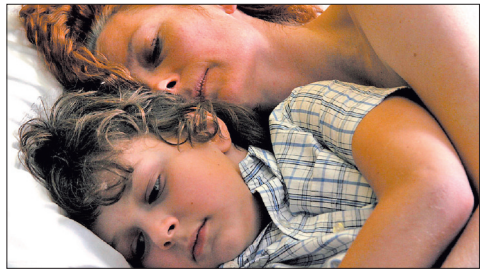
This summer, there's a smorgasbord of meatier fare to choose from, including Julia, starring Tilda Swinton as a middle-aged alcoholic who makes a desperate decision; Away We Go from director Sam Mendes, starring John Krasinksi and Maya Rudolph as an expectant couple searching the country for a place to call home; and Kathryn Bigelow's The Hurt Locker, about an elite Army bomb squad in Iraq, which earned Jeremy Renner a lead-actor nomination at this year's Spirit Awards.

Independent films, which usually have smaller budgets and less money to spend on advertising, especially get a fighting chance this time of year.

"Summer's always great because there are more people going to movies in general — not just regular movies, although the behemoths are there — but people have more leisure time in the summer so they have more time to go to the movies," said Eamonn Bowles, president of Magnolia Pictures.

His company's films this summer include Julia, Steven Soderbergh's The Girlfriend Experience, the dark comedy Humpday and the documentary Food, Inc.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tilda Swinton plays an alcoholic in Julia, one of several 'serious' films slated for release this summer.

DVD picks

JCVD

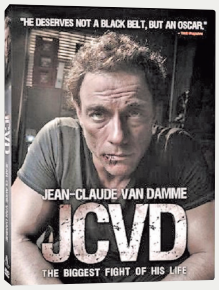
Director: Mabrouk El Mechri

THE SURPRISINGLY soulful JCVD takes it to a whole other level of fun and fascination with a Rashomon-like story wherein Van Damme plays himself as an action hero in decline — not far from the truth, in other words — whose life become far more complicated than any movie plot he's ever put his name to.

He's in the midst of a rancorous child custody dispute, battling a duplicitous agent and jousting with eternal rival Steven Seagal. Returning to home turf Brussels for some necessary head clearing, Van Damme gets caught up in a hostage-taking incident at a post office. Both the bad guys and the good guys think Van Damme is really being Van Damme. Except he's not.

Writer-director Mabrouk El Mechri keeps us guessing as to what is really going on, and Van Damme is completely in on the joke — but is it really a joke?

Too bad Van Damme doesn't take the self-deprecation one step further by offering a DVD commentary, but maybe that would be too much introspection. The extras are just deleted and extended scenes.



Bride Wars

Director: Gary Winick

SOME GIRLS dream of forging world peace or finding a cure for cancer. Not school teacher Emma (Anne Hathaway) and corporate lawyer Liv (Kate Hudson), who hardly care what man they land as long the nuptials occur in June in New York's luxurious The Plaza Hotel.

A mistake by Manhattan's top wedding planner, Marion St. Claire (Candice Bergen), results in both weddings — gasp! — being booked into the Plaza on the same day. Emma and Liv morph into stop-at-nothing rivals, each vowing to sabotage the other's special plans.

Bride Wars is overlong and episodic, which is what you'd expect from a committee of writers, but it's passably amusing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Channing suffered Fighting injuries

Channing Tatum had his nose "mashed back in" while filming Fighting. The actor — who stars as an underground fighter in the movie — took a blow to the face and had to have his features set back into place as it affected him so badly. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Mary-Kate savours Tribeca duties

Mary-Kate Olsen is taking her duties as a juror at the Tribeca Film Festival as seriously as an A-student getting ready for the first day of school.

"I wish there was a class. It is a huge honour to be a part of it and I was asked to be a part of it," said the notoriously media-shy actress as she spoke of her juror duties. "I have been watching the movies and just started. I don't really know what we do or what is going to happen yet. I am just seeing how the week starts," she said.

Mary-Kate Olsen

The annual festival, based in downtown Manhattan, was founded by Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal. The festival kicked off last week and ends this week. Though Olsen is having to analyze all facets of a film to determine the top winner, she says her role has not made her want to get behind the camera to direct anytime soon.

"I am content doing what I do. I want to concentrate doing one thing at a time," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former MuchMusic VJ plays Amanda Walsh plays one of Matthew McConaughey's love interests in the romantic comedy Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, which hits theatres Friday.

Hollywood calling

Canadian hits big time with Girlfriends Past

She's gone from palling around with Rick the Temp to portraying one of Matthew McConaughey's love interests.

Five years after leaving MuchMusic to pursue an acting career, former VJ Amanda Walsh appears in the light-hearted rom-com The Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, playing a bridesmaid alongside lead actress Jennifer Garner.

It's her most high-profile role since leaving the all-music station for Hollywood, where the 27-year-old now shares a house with four others in show business, including another actress from The Ghosts of Girlfriends Past.

"It feels a bit like a reality show in here, but it's funny," Walsh says of her chaotic living arrangement, which includes a roommate in the fashion business, a publicist, and a photographer.

"Sometimes there'll be photo shoots in the house — you'll come home and there'll be like, (mimicking Britney Spears' pop hit in a high-pitched singing voice) 'Gimme gimme more, gimme more' and a random model walks by. It's very, very L.A."

"I was coming out of the bathroom and he was playing (a piece of equipment) like bongos."
Amanda Walsh about an encounter with Matthew McConaughey

It's also proving to be a promising move for the young actress.

Since moving south, Walsh scored a role in the short-lived Lorne Michaels series, Sons & Daughters, as well as bit parts in films including Disturbia and the TV shows, The Big Bang Theory and Veronica Mars.

Walsh says she's in the midst of moving to a place of her own in the Valley, and is excited by new career prospects that include the McConaughey vehicle and a role in the HBO pilot, Washingtonienne.

The TV show centres on the lives of three women forging a career for themselves in D.C.

Walsh says the first time she met McConaughey, the actor almost lived up to a dubious reputation forged years back when he was arrested for drug possession while dancing naked and playing the bongos.

"I was coming out of the bathroom and he was playing (a piece of equipment) like bongos," Walsh says of an encounter on set.

• Ghosts of Girlfriends Past opens Friday.

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Undead Evan

Evan Rachel Wood will play a vampire queen on the second season of HBO's True Blood. Wood will play the Queen of Louisiana, a 400-year-old vampire who rules over the undead world residing in the Bayou State. TVGUIDE.COM

Six Degrees of a guitar-pop band

ROB McMAHON
for Metro Canada

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart are one hyper-linked band. While their nostalgic guitar pop stands strong enough alone, you can crack each song open to find a labyrinth of references and shout-outs: a technique singer-guitarist Kip Berman ascribes in part to the late Kurt Cobain.

"Bands when I was growing up (did that). I remember Nirvana, back when I was a 14-year-old, got me to check out the Vaselines," he said. "I probably wouldn't know about the Vaselines if Kurt Cobain didn't say their name every 10 seconds."

The band's song Contender isn't about Robert De Niro's and Marlon Brando's speeches in Raging Bull and On the Waterfront, but rather to Exploding Head and its track I'm a Pretender, which soundtracks shared memories for Kip and bassist Alex Naidus. The drums on Gentle Sons recall the caveman drumming of the Jesus and Mary Chain's Psychocandy, which in turn offered a fuzzy, noisy re-interpretation of the "wall of sound" production style of '60s girl groups and the Beach Boys. "We're all big fans of pop, and there (are) a lot of antecedents to our music, so we drop in references to stuff we're fans of," he said. "We're hoping to pass on (references) to young listeners who maybe haven't heard them yet."

Asked if the band's digital career paths (Naidus reviews Canadian releases for a music website and keyboardist Peggy Wang-East aggregates online trends) impacted their songwriting, Berman said not consciously. But upon reflection, he said the band's approach — an interest in "hyperlinking" sounds and in archiving older music — fits closely with web culture. "Now that I think about it, yes," he said. "(It's been amazing) meeting people from bands who are a big influence to us, but are not well-listened to. Some maybe put out an album in 1987, or maybe two singles, and then wondered if anyone ever heard them, if people cared. We want to show them we (did)."

On stage

- The Pains of Being Pure at Heart play Lee's Palace tonight.

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart.

"There (are) a lot of antecedents to our music."
Kip Berman

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Caine joins Nolan's Inception

Michael Caine has indeed signed on to join the cast of Christopher Nolan's mysterious sci-fi, Inception. The movie will be the fourth in a row for the Caine/Nolan team, following Batman Begins, The Prestige, and The Dark Knight. EMPIREONLINE.COM

CTV chief slams CRTC

Regulator blamed for broadcasters' woes

One of Canada's top broadcasters is blaming the federal regulator for contributing to the crisis facing conventional television.

CTVglobemedia Inc. chief executive Ivan Fecan levied sharp criticism at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission yesterday at the commission's special hearing on the state of the industry.

"Over the years, there has been a series of decisions that have had the effect of compromising the underpinnings of conventional television while favouring the distributors (cable and satellite carriers)," he said.

"What I am saying is that things are seriously out of balance when, for five years running, the system produces continuous growth for one sector and continuous decline for another."

He said distributors are enjoying record profits while conventional broadcasters are losing money.

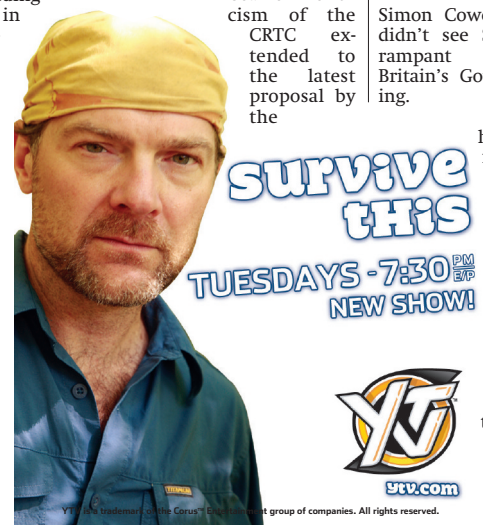
CTVglobemedia has announced layoffs, the closure of local stations in Windsor and Wingham, Ont., and other cutbacks, including reductions in local programming. Canwest Global Communications Corp. has also made deep cuts and is struggling to avert bankruptcy.

Fecan said more trouble will be coming if the system is not changed to allow broadcasters revenue other than advertising, which is declining.

While small-market stations are in the deepest trouble, he said, large markets are also facing high costs and dwindling revenues, citing CTV's Vancouver station as one that is losing money.

Fecan's criticism of the CRTC extended to the latest proposal by the regulator that networks spend as much creating domestic programming as on buying American shows.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



We underestimated Boyle, Cowell says

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Susan Boyle

Simon Cowell admits he didn't see Susan Boyle's rampant success on Britain's Got Talent coming.

"I wouldn't have sat here five weeks ago and said the person to watch out for is Susan Boyle," Cowell said in Los Angeles recently will promoting this summer's American version of the TV show.

"We were all guilty on the panel of judging her before she sang and got it completely and utterly wrong. And you watch it back, and it's embarrassing."

But with all the hubbub about Boyle's recent makeover and her underdog story, Cowell worries people are losing focus on what really matters.

"She has got four weeks to prepare for the biggest night of her life ... she's got to sing better than she sang before with all that expectation on her," he said.

"But it could all go horribly wrong now because there's so many other distractions."

But is Cowell jealous of the fact that Boyle, who has reportedly never been kissed, has said she'd prefer fellow judge Piers Morgan over him for that first smooch? "Yes, it's kept me awake at night, that one," he joked.

Of course, Boyle may already be getting fed up with Cowell's program. Her brother, Gerard, recently spoke to the Daily Mirror, saying, "When I last spoke to her she sounded exhausted."

TV Babies!

"Our babies and kids are busy!" says Ann Love at The Baby Face Agency. "In ads, movies, and modelling, some earned $30,000."

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Phones are open now for parents to list babies and kids. Dial (416)

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/28/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Undersea Exp.	Parks	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		*A Married Couple* (1969, Documentary)			Around the World	
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Legend" (N)		90210 (HDTV) (N)		Cold Blood "Disturbed"		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	TBA	TBA	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		According-Jim	According-Jim	Rita Rocks	Friends	Curb-Enthsm	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol		(9:01) Fringe (N)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser (N)				Dr. 90210		News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Mâles en péril		*Sous le sable* ★★★ (2000, Drame)			Folie-aventure	Tournants
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Steel Magnolias* ★★★ (1989, Comedy-Drama) Sally Field, Dolly Parton.					The DVD Show	Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	NCIS "Legend" (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		(10:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Biggest Loser (N)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Dancing With the Stars		(10:02) Cupid (N)		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Reaper (HDTV) (N)		Dancing With the Stars		(10:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol		(9:01) Fringe (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Keeping Up	Nova (HDTV) (DVS)		Frontline (N) (DVS)		Age of Terror		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Reaper (HDTV) (N)		90210 (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Reaper
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	Planet Earth		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Marijuana Inc.: Pot Industry		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	World Sport	Jays	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Kansas City Royals. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conference Quarterfinal Game 7 -- Rangers at Capitals					NHL Hockey	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Survive This	Survive This	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Remedy Me	Keep Real	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Miss Naked Beauty (N)		Maxed Out (N)
	570	580	29 MM	The O.C.		Instant Star	Instant Star	CollegeHmr	Video on Trial	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	MuchOnDem
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Payback"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Serie A	Magnifica Italia	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Cross Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Jessica
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Mutant X "Interface"		Testees	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (HDTV) (N)		House
	620	523	40 BVO	Ferron: Girl on a Road		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Scotty Moore & Friends: A Tribute to the King				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Stakeout"		Sandhogs "Job Security"		Crime Stories		NCIS "Stakeout"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Roast of Pamela Anderson		Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	HGTV's Top 10	Dirty Business	SarahCottage	Design Inc.	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Home Videos	House-Payne	Seinfeld
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Menace II Society* ★★★ (1993, Drama) Tyrin Turner.				College Hill	College Hill	*Menace II Soc.*
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* ★★★ (1984, Science Fiction)					Watchmen	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Mom & Dad	After	Canada's Next Top Model		Beatdown	College Life	College Life	Beatdown	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Tube Tales	Tube Tales	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	French Food	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word		Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef Am.
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	On the Buses	Quantum Leap		I Prophesy	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	Look-A-Like	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Qui perd gagne (SC)		La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Nos étés (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing "Mr. Nobody"		Missing "Truth or Dare"		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	*Desperate Escape* (2009, Suspense) Elisabeth Röhm.				*Speed Racer* ★★ (2008, Action) Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci.				
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:10) *Reindeer Games* ★★ (2000, Crime Drama)				*Being John Malkovich* ★★★ (1999, Comedy)				*Suspicious Rvr*

critics' corner

Scotty Moore & Friends: A Tribute to the King of Rock and Roll

Who's Scotty Moore? Tennessee-born Moore is a guitarist who played with Elvis back in the day, starting with his first hit, "That's All Right (Mama)" in 1954. Moore gathers some other musical legends to perform Presley's music, including Eric Clapton, David Gilmour, Mark Knopfler, Ron Wood and Bill Wyman. 9 PM on BVO

NCIS

The death of a Marine leads Gibbs and McGee to the NCIS Office of Special Projects, where the investigation quickly assumes vital importance. Chris O'Donnell and LL Cool J guest star in "Legend (Part 1)," also the pilot for an "NCIS" spinoff. 8 PM on GTV CBS

Fringe

After mutilated bodies drained of their spinal fluid start piling up, the investigation leads to a scientist who may have ties to the Z.F.T. bioterrorist cell. Olivia, Peter and Walter take measures to stop the murders in the new episode "Midnight." 9:01 PM on CTV FOX

Guest list growing for TV wedding

ONLINE A website that has details about the nuptials of Grey's Anatomy duo Meredith Grey and Derek Shepherd — and an invitation to RSVP for the event — drew 1,400 replies in the first 24 hours. Not bad for a fictional couple. The on-again, off-again duo known as "Mer-Der" are set for a May wedding. The online site, which is built within theknot.com, celebrates the pair played by Ellen Pompeo and Patrick Dempsey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

FILM The National Film Board of Canada is making a documentary based on Margaret Atwood's non-fiction book Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

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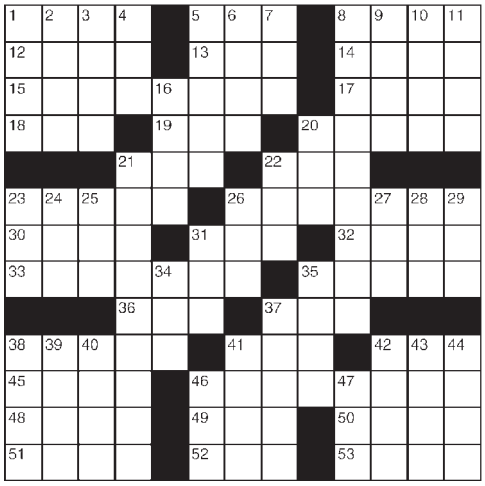
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Put together
5 Sleeve filler
8 Bloke
12 Godmother, often
13 Halloween shout
14 Judicial raiment
15 Medieval weapon
17 Terminer partner
18 Corrode
19 Household member
20 Biblical poem
21 Weep
22 Petrol
23 Bride's stuff
26 Showy display
30 Allegheny + Monongahela
31 Hula hoop, e.g.
32 Pedestal occupant
33 Lab creation?
35 AKC category
36 Scatter seed
37 Colouring
38 Sad look
41 Gear tooth
42 That girl
45 Stromboli spillage
46 Saw type
48 List-end abbr.
49 Weeding tool
50 Cougar
51 "Wunnerful" bandleader
52 Unfriendly
53 Pumps up the volume

Crossword down

1 Spiked club
2 Ambience
3 Entanglement
4 UFO crew?
5 Westminster, e.g.
6 Source
7 Tend the lawn
8 Rapid, heated exchange of words
9 Georgetown athlete
10 First victim
11 Hair salon request
16 Agile
20 Zero-star review
21 Pedestrians' place
22 Peregrinate
23 Comic DeLuise
24 Discoverer's cry
25 Triumph
26 Distant
27 Expert
28 Shad product
29 Remnant
31 Hardly any
34 Heavy weight
35 Elmer's annoyer
37 Nonsense
38 Took off
39 Assess
40 Ellipse
41 Gator's cousin
42 Pond gunk
43 Igor's deformity
44 Greek vowels
46 Windy City, for short
47 Masseur's workplace

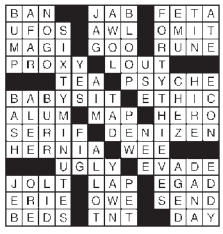
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1		4					
		5		9				4
		6		5	8	2	1	
		9						6
	5	1		4		8	2	
6						7		
	3	7	9	2		4		
8				6		3		
					5		7	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



4	8	1	5	9	2	3	6	7
7	2	3	4	6	8	9	1	5
5	6	9	7	1	3	8	2	4
1	5	6	8	4	9	2	7	3
2	3	8	1	7	6	4	5	9
9	4	7	3	2	5	1	8	6
3	1	2	6	5	4	7	9	8
8	9	5	2	3	7	6	4	1
6	7	4	9	8	1	5	3	2

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Arabian-Style Beef with Flat Bread

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup (250 ml) pine nuts
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
1 large onion
1 lb (450 g) lean ground beef or lamb
1 tbsp (15 ml) ground cumin
1 tsp (5 ml) ground allspice
1 can (10 oz / 284 ml) chopped tomatoes
Bunch of coriander
1 cucumber
1/2 crisp lettuce

TO SERVE:
3/4 cup (175 ml) sour cream, 8 soft flour tortillas or pita breads

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to warm the bread. Dry-fry pine nuts in large frying pan, shaking and stirring frequently until lightly browned. Transfer to bowl and set aside.
2. Add olive oil to pan and heat slowly. Halve, peel and chop onion, then fry over moderate heat until softened, 3 minutes. Add meat and fry until brown, stirring to break up lumps. Stir in cumin, allspice and tomatoes and their juice and simmer 10–15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Rinse, dry and chop enough coriander to give 4 tbsp (60 ml) and set aside. Rinse, dry and chop cucumber; rinse, dry and shred lettuce. Place in separate serving bowls. Put bread into oven to warm.
4. When the meat is cooked, stir in coriander and pine nuts, heat through, then transfer to serving bowl. Put bread into napkin-lined serving basket to keep hot. Serve immediately.

SERVES 4

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Reader's Digest It's a Wonderful World

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Yield to practicalities if a player leaves you stranded. Money is an issue with an unexpected bill. Colossal obstacles will flabbergast you.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A financial temptation is presented. Unlikely events cause heads to spin. An obnoxious elder causes you to respond truthfully.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Fear turns to happiness after an act of kindness. You're not living in denial anymore. Take time to reflect on your actions.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A sudden attraction heightens tension. A stranger's remark reveals a plan for success. Be prepared to discover who is at fault.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A liar has a big payback. Understanding an issue will free you from inconsistent behaviour. Don't try to enforce a diet.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A love affair restricts your movements. Boasting causes a major crisis. An amazing adventure is unfolding before your eyes.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A narcissist gets trapped by flattery. A stubborn person creates disharmony. Good fortune comes through travel.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Pay close attention to a mystifying message. Time passes too quickly to have a revelation. Something exciting will happen.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Treat meddling people kindly. Avoid annoying anyone who could do you a favour. Watch out for wonderful opportunities that arise.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A respected man tries to undermine your reputation. There'll be a problem with shoes. Don't pretend to be unconcerned.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A friend is tired of living a predictable life. Bail someone out of bad situation. A woman risks falling under a love spell.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A team puts up a roadblock. Independent action soothes your soul. Concentrate on optimism in an uncertain venture.

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Kate joins Entourage cast

Kate Mara will be joining the cast of Entourage this season, tvguide.com has confirmed. The young actress will play E's new assistant at his fledgling talent-management company, and perhaps his love interest as well. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay and Sam stage comeback?

RELATIONSHIP Looks like Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson may be heading for a comeback. The two have apparently been meeting up on the sly, first with Ronson spotted leaving Lohan's house at 6 a.m. after spending the night, and then with Lohan showing up at Ronson's the very next night, according to Hollyscoop.

Coincidentally, Ronson changed her Facebook relationship status from "single" to "it's complicated" around the same time.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Marc's fiancé details proposal

PEOPLE Lorenzo Martone — fiancé to fashion designer Marc Jacobs — revealed all to The Cut last week about the engagement and a trip to meet Martone's family in Brazil, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"He met my entire family — mom, dad, brother, grandmother. Everyone adored him. Like they should, right?"

Martone also revealed that he was the one who proposed to Jacobs, with a pink-gold triple band ring.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Slumdog pair confirmed couple

ROMANCE After much speculation about the nature of the relationship involving Slumdog Millionaire stars Dev Patel and Freida Pinto, Patel's mother Anita has confirmed to a British newspaper that the pair are very much a couple, people.com reports.

"First it was the film and now everything else seems to have slotted into place," Mrs. Patel is quoted as saying in Monday's Daily Mirror.

"Life can't get any better for him. Freida is really beautiful, and I am really happy for them."

Her comments come just days after Patel, 19, jetted to Israel to spend a whirlwind date with the Mumbai beauty, 24. "Yes, we knew he was flying to Israel to see her," said Patel's mother.

The pair rendezvoused in Tel Aviv as Pinto took time off from filming her latest movie in Jerusalem. The couple spent a few hours together in a hotel before emerging for a stroll around the harbor and an early champagne dinner at a seaside restaurant.

Onlookers said Pinto couldn't keep her hands off Patel. The couple spent their time at the table smooching and holding hands to the delight of a group of Japanese tourists who happened to pass by.

Shortly afterwards, Patel hopped a taxi to the airport to fly back to London, while Pinto returned to her base at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ben's awkward teen years

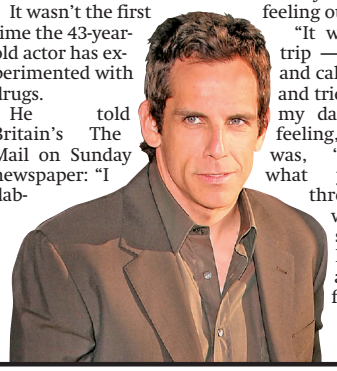
PEOPLE Ben Stiller had to take drugs to get the courage to talk to his now-wife, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Night At The Museum star — who is married to actress Christine Taylor — was so shy when he was younger, he could only talk to girls when he was high.

He said: "I wasn't good at picking up the girls. I've never been God's gift to the world. And I couldn't even chat up my wife until one day I injured my toe and because I was hopped up on painkillers I felt loose enough to talk to her.

"I was a little bit drugged. We started hanging out and having so much fun that she came to visit me in New York and never left."

It wasn't the first time the 43-year-old actor has experimented with drugs.



He told Britain's The Mail on Sunday newspaper: "I dabbled in drugs — just dabbled. I did LSD once, only once. It was peer pressure, a high-school thing. But it was scary and I didn't like feeling out of control.

"It was a very bad trip — I freaked out and called my parents and tried to explain to my dad what I was feeling, but all he said was, 'I understand what you're going through. When I was a teenager I smoked a Pall Mall cigarette and I got sick for two days.'"

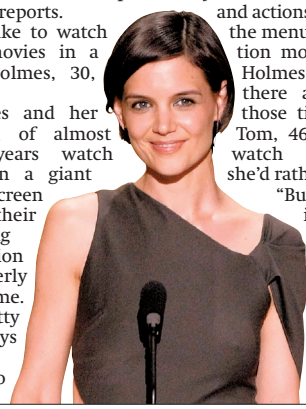
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movie night with TomKat

PEOPLE Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes make movies at their day job. So how do they relax at home at night? More movies, movies, and movies, people.com reports.

"We like to watch three movies in a row," Holmes, 30, said.

Holmes and her husband of almost three years watch flicks on a giant movie screen in their sprawling $35-million US Beverly Hills home. "It's pretty big," says Holmes, "I love to watch movies on the big screen."



The movie marathons keep everyone at home happy, she says, because they combine chick flicks and actions movies on the menu. "I love action movies," adds Holmes, who says there are indeed those times when Tom, 46, wants to watch something she'd rather not.

"But I'll watch it anyway, and then we'll talk about it afterward."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

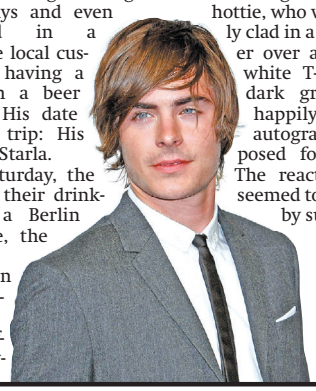
Zac storms Germany

CAREER Zac Efron landed in Berlin this weekend and was greeted with a familiar sound — from the hordes of screaming girls, people.com reports.

In Germany to promote the European release of his hit romantic comedy 17 Again, the sexy screen star, 21, saw the sights, caught some rays and even indulged in a favourite local custom of having a drink in a beer garden. His date for the trip: His mother, Starla.

On Saturday, the two did their drinking at a Berlin favourite, the Fischerhütte, on Schlachtensee Lake. After driving through the city, the Efrons had dinner at Käfer, the gourmet restaurant in the glass dome atop the historic Reichstag parliament building.

On Sunday afternoon, more than 800 shrieking fans lined a cinema red carpet to catch a glimpse of their fringed hero. The hottie, who was jauntily clad in a dark blazer over a rumpled white T-shirt and dark gray jeans, happily signed autographs and posed for photos. The reaction even seemed to take him by surprise.



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Robert in it for the ladies
The Twilight star Robert Pattinson admits he only got into acting after his father spotted pretty girls arriving at his first theatre audition and told him, "You've got to go to that." To this day, he tells Access Hollywood, "That's the reason I still do it." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

John proves singledom

PEOPLE John Mayer swears he's single, usmagazine.com reports.

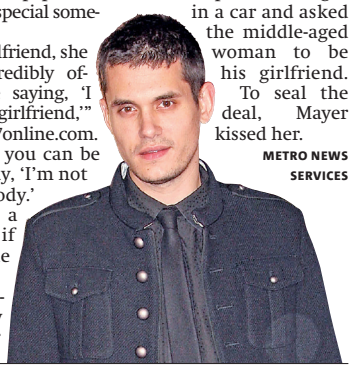
Despite rumours that the singer has found a new girlfriend, Mayer tells paparazzi that there's no special someone right now.

"If I had a girlfriend, she would be incredibly offended by me saying, 'I don't have a girlfriend,'" Mayer told x17online.com.

"That's how you can be sure. I could say, 'I'm not with anybody.' That'd be a death wish if you were the woman."

People reported Friday that Mayer has been spending time with cocktail waitress and actress Scheana Marie, but to prove that he's unattached, he approached a complete stranger in a car and asked the middle-aged woman to be his girlfriend. To seal the deal, Mayer kissed her.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miley channels the Bard

CAREER Miley Cyrus performed Shakespeare sonnets to prepare for Hannah Montana: The Movie, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Director Peter Chelsom made the 16-year-old star follow drama school teaching techniques to keep her focused on her scenes, including avidly studying the Bard's famous works.

"We did stuff before we started filming that was just the kind of stuff you'd do at drama school, you know," he said.

"Did I give her a detention? No. I made her read a sonnet though. A Shakespeare sonnet. She said, 'Oh no I can't.' I said, 'Let's do it because it'll be the most difficult thing you'll ever do.' We did all that kind of stuff. It was remarkable.

"We used to have this code where I would say, 'This means focus, because I don't want to have to shout at you across the set!'"

Despite her young age, the 53-year-old British director is convinced Miley has a successful career ahead of her.

He explained: "I think she has a real range, I think she's capable of like a Juno film, I think she's capable of that, and I think she's here for the long run."

Meanwhile, Cyrus took to her Twitter account to clear up rumours that she's getting back with ex Nick Jonas and dumping boyfriend Justin Gaston.

"It makes me sad to think that people out there aren't friends with their (ex-boyfriends), because let me tell (you) it is possible," she wrote. "Justin and Nick are two very amazing people and they both mean so much to me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The dish on Spence and Heidi's big day

MARRIAGE Stephanie Pratt says Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag's wedding Saturday was "amazing."

"Heidi looked amazing," she told MTV News after the ceremony in Pasadena, Calif. "She was wearing a million dollars worth of diamonds over a strapless Monique Lhullier dress."

Even though the couple kept their composure during the ceremony, Pratt said she couldn't help but get emotional.

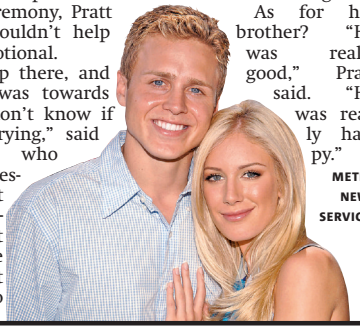
"I was up there, and her back was towards me, so I don't know if she was crying," said Stephanie, who was a bridesmaid. "But she was getting mad at me if we would start crying so that she wouldn't start crying.'

Spencer and Stephanie's parents — who were among the 200 guests — also "were very emotional, like most parents would be," she said.

Montag's sister, Holly, was maid of honour and "really kept it together," Pratt said. "Everything worked out great."

As for her brother? "He was really good," Pratt said. "He was really happy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Britney mediates Dolls dispute

DISPUTE Tensions are heating up among the Pussycat Dolls over speculation that lead singer Nicole Scherzinger is planning to go solo.

"It's like a modern-day version of the Diana Ross and the Supremes thing," a source tells the Chicago Sun-Times.

But the group has found an unlikely mediator for their dispute: Britney Spears, who has the group opening for her on the North American leg of her tour.

"Remember, business comes first," Spears reportedly lectured the girls recently. "You can hate each other offstage, but make it work onstage."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brangie put stop to tell-all book

LEGAL Former celebrity bodyguard Mickey Brett was set to tell all about former clients such as Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and Richard Gere, according to proposals obtained by Rush & Malloy.

But once Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie got wind of the projects — which would dish dirt on them — their lawyers quickly put a stop to it. Their attorney, Marty Singer, says Brett's a "pathological liar" who faked a British SAS military history, among other things.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tattoos cause stir on Joel's flight

PEOPLE When heavily inked rocker Joel Madden attempted to board a British Airways flight from London to Lisbon on Saturday evening, he claims he was ordered to hide his tats or stay in the U.K., eonline.com reports.

"Was just told by a british air person I can't get on the plane till I cover my tatts," he wrote on Twitter. "I really actually am in shock he won't let me on the plane till I put long sleeves on and other BA rep is disagreeing."

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